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WELCOME TO OUR SEPTEMBER ISSUE

Photo **Sussie Bell**

Just like my predecessor Caroline, I too decided to return to the North West after spending many years in London. I returned much older (sadly), hopefully just a little wiser and in possession of a young daughter, two cats and a fish! Yet despite, what for me was a life changing decision there are no regrets. I have always considered the North to be my home and having discovered the delights of *CFL* I know that my penchant for designer interiors will not suffer.

If there were any doubts then I can assure you the northern design scene is every bit as good as that in the south – in fact I was so excited to discover that one of my favourite stores, BoConcept is opening in the North West (page 26) that I put them on our cover! And that's what *Concept For Living* is all about – seeking out the best interiors, shops, events and up-and-coming designers in your region, alongside the latest trends and finds for your home.

This month has taken us to Yorkshire, Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Northumberland, Nottingham and Gateshead in our quest for great reader homes, architectural delights and regional buys. While back in the office we've been discovering the latest looks for paint, some brilliant ideas for kids rooms plus an abundance of fabulous fires and stoves for those chilly nights to come. And talking of impending darker nights, Katie and Eleri took a trip to North Wales to shoot our fantastic clock feature (page 90) as a timely reminder to turn back your clocks on the 25th!

Finally, if like me you have just started a new job or are simply too busy to shop then why not check out my current three favourite online shops (left).

See you next month

Paula Woods, Acting Editor

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With winter on its way October's retail therapy provides a range of products for the home that will bring warmth and colour, without compromising on style. Take a peak at our cosy selection from the best designers, there's just too much choice to resist.

BELOW
'Caleido', designed by Odosdesign for Ferrious, is part of the new rug collection for Spanish manufacturer Gandia Blasco. Made from 100% pure new wool it is the perfect winter accessory for the home, priced at £900. **Tel. 0161 228 6860 or visit: www.ferrious.com**

LEFT
'Bakari' the new autumn collection from Harlequin is inspired by the organic textures and physical elements of the natural world. Designs include imagery of pebbles, bark and foliage, all with a tranquil, contemporary twist. The colour palette is strong but simple.
Tel. 0844 543 0299 or visit: www.harlequin.uk.com

Utopia launches 'Black Is Back' available in both fitted and modular furniture. The black gloss can be used on its own as a door finish, or can be combined with a selection of finishes to create a unique look. Prices start from £194.77 for a WC panel in black gloss.
Tel. 0800 288 8409 or visit: www.utopiagroup.com

ABOVE LEFT
Update your home this winter with richer, darker shades of wallpaper, a great way to introduce an instant cosy feel. 'Superfresco Colours' from Graham & Brown features a collection of warm, floral and contemporary wallcoverings. Pictured 'Rosalyn' wallpaper, priced at £20 per roll.
Tel. 0800 328 8452 or visit: www.grahamandbrown.com

ABOVE RIGHT
The leather star rug from Jacaranda is part of a luxurious collection of rugs made with great attention to detail. Available with or without a leather border, the rug is available in two sizes and starts from £450.
Tel. 01858 404 144 visit: www.jacarandacarpets.com

ABOVE
Maxwell & Williams has extended its range to add the 'Microstoven' collection, a 19-piece cookware range that includes dishes made from high-quality stoneware. Each item is fully glazed and available in vibrant red or black, prices start from £4. **Visit: www.maxwellandwilliams.co.uk**

TOP LEFT
Available in both roller and roman blinds 'Coral' is the latest addition to the 'Natural Selection' collection from Novatec. Inspired by nature prices start from £78 for a blind measuring 60cm x 80cm. **Tel. 01483 608 780 visit: www.novatec.co.uk**

BELOW LEFT
Perfect for entertaining the 'Happy' nest of tables from Amode starts at £826. Available in red, black or white glass with chrome legs, the tables are easily stacked and would make the perfect addition to any home. **Tel. 0845 508 4457 visit: www.amode.co.uk**

Aura Lifestyle has launched its new autumn/winter collection featuring bedlinen with bold designs tied with expressions of colour. Exotic destinations, rich wondrous colour palettes and nature's textures are all available. Pictured the 'Maxx Chilli' range is priced from £12 for a pillowcase. **Tel. 0161 275 9966 or visit: www.aurahome.com.au**

TOP RIGHT
The 'Loop' collection from Villeroy & Boch has been expanded to introduce a new range of basins. Modern in their approach, the elegant basins have been designed with no sharp edges or corners. Available as square, rectangular, round or oval there is a broad selection to suit any bathroom. **Tel. 0208 875 6000 or visit: www.vivo-vb.com**

RIGHT
Designed by Roberto Tapinassi & Maurizo Manzoni, the new high back silhouette armchair for Roche Bobois has been upholstered in wool and is a mix of retro and modern styling. Available in both high back and low back versions this vibrant armchair is priced at £2,320. **Visit: www.roche-bobois.com**

LEFT
New from the Next autumn/winter collection is the 'Botanical Study' range, featuring canary yellows with charcoal shades. Inspiration is taken from botanic drawings. As featured, cushions are priced from £12, wallpaper £15 per roll and curtains from £40. **Tel. 0844 844 8000 or visit: www.next.co.uk**

ABOVE
'The Self' is a brand new addition to the 'Baker & Belgae' range by Rume. A fabulous, dramatic wing chair with a daring raked back, button detail and elegant slim legs. Made to order 'Self' is priced from £1,560. **Tel. 01273 777 810 or visit: www.rume.co.uk**

Autumn/Winter 2009 at Heal's is about tactile furnishings and the exploration of textiles, pattern and colour. With exclusive flock pieces from Johnny Egg and a rich variety of products in felt, wool, silk and lacquer, this season is dark and sexy with black and cobalt blue highlighted by accents of hot pink. As featured, prices start from £80 for a 'Clarissa Hulse' silk cushion.
Tel. 08700 240 78 visit: www.heals.co.uk

ABOVE
Nono has launched the 'Glitz' collection, a mix of hollywood glamour and dramatic prints featuring glossy metallic effects, luscious silks, velvets and funky prints. Combining 60's patterns with traditional effects you can create that wow factor in your home. Prices start from £25 per metre.
Tel. 01282 471 622 or visit: www.nono.co.uk

RIGHT
'Zettel'z 5' from Arredo is a hanging light that is perfect for the style-savvy consumer. The ceiling light is characterised by an arrangement of love letters written in various languages. Each letter is attached to thin wires by clips. Crafted from stainless steel and designed to be personalised, prices start from £710.
Tel. 0845 459 2164 or visit: www.arredo.co.uk

ABOVE LEFT
Surface introduces 'Déchirer' a designed room set created by Michael Reeves. The sofa is upholstered in a shimmery-surfaced linen while darker accents are added by tables and floor lamps in dark bronze. The overall feel is inviting, calming and luxurious. 'Déchirer' décor tile in ecru starts from £111.55 per square metre.
Tel. 020 7354 700 or visit: www.surfacetiles.com

BELOW LEFT
The latest addition to Balenium are these organic cotton 'Syrie' towels. Hand-woven and hand-dyed in France, these lightweight towels are the perfect addition to any bathroom. Prices start from £24.50 for a hand towel.
Tel. 0207 431 9364 or visit: www.balineum.co.uk

DESIGN **NEWS**

LIGHT FANTASTIC

Those clever Italian lighting designers at Foscarini have done it again with their latest collection of illuminating installations and here at *CFL* we just love these stunning luminous spheres. 'Le Soleil', by Vicente Garcia Jimenez, is fashioned from a series of irregular bands, which act as a reflective surface on the inside, while diffusing light on the outside to create a soft, attractive glow. Available in white, aquamarine and red, these irresistible orbs costs £584 each.
View the collection at: www.foscarini.com or call 0800 376 2518 for your nearest stockist.

Blind passion >>>

When it comes to soft furnishings, wool is the must-have fabric this winter. Celebrated for its soft texture and excellent green credentials, it is also a natural insulator making it ideal for window treatments. So why not banish draughts and add a touch of style with Eclectics' new 'Margin' range of 100% wool roller blinds. Featuring one or two vertical bands of contrasting colour, they are available in nine colourways. 'Margin' roller blind in red and charcoal from £144.
CFL readers can buy online at: www.eclectics.co.uk or call 01843 608789 for stockists.

STEP UP THE STYLE

County Durham's own Stairrods (UK) is leading the way when it comes to ensuring your hallway makes a great first impression. No longer the domain of the traditional home, stair rods now grace even the most contemporary of homes and to make sure everyone can get their hands on them, Stairrods (UK) has launched 'Easyrod'. Stylish and economical, these chic new slimline rods are available in four finishes, including sleek chrome, and can be fitted in minutes. What's more at around £8.80 each, you'll only need to stump up £100 to transform a typical 13 step staircase.
For further information visit: www.stairrods.co.uk or call 01207 59143 for a brochure.

CLEVER CUBES

Online contemporary furniture shop and *CFL* favourite, Amode, has predicted that red will be a key colour this season and, with this in mind, has introduced an exciting range of bold statement pieces. We love the multi-functional 'Trivento' storage cube with its top opening system and concealed wheels. Use individually or as a cluster to create a modular coffee table. £299.99 each in gloss red, black or white. **Visit: www.amode.co.uk to browse this season's collection or call 0845 508 4457.**

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DESIGN **NEWS**

Water feature

Taking inspiration from a water droplet, this striking towel holder will bring a touch of designer style to any bathroom. Part of Italian home living specialists, Oasis' new 'Odue' (or O2) collection, this silver wall-mounted towel holder is at once organic and futuristic. The 'Stylla' towel holder costs £298 and is available through Alchemy Design Award.
Visit: www.alchemyaward.com or tel. 0845 388 0782.

ELAINE CUNNINGHAM BRINGS BOCONCEPT TO LIVERPOOL >>>

Elaine Cunningham, of Elaine Cunningham Interiors, has opened a new BoConcept store on the ground floor of the RIBA award-winning Unity building in Chapel Street, Liverpool. The first BoConcept store to be opened in the North West, the stunning showroom will stock BoConcept's full range of designer furniture and lifestyle products, and is set to become a destination store for the city centre.
You will find BoConcept at 22-24 Chapel Street or tel. 0845 612 6600.

Table talk

Exclusive online lifestyle boutique, Caroline McGrath, has added the fabulous 'Anorak Kissing Robins' Oilcloth to its ever-expanding lifestyle collection. Offering stylish waterproof protection for your kitchen or dining table, this 100% cotton-coated cloth is available in a number of lengths and prices start from £32.
Buy online at: www.carolinemcgrath.co.uk or tel. 01869 340479.

SLEEPING BEAUTY

For those looking for a good night's sleep, Swedish bed makers, Hästens, have launched a new generation of continental beds. Drawing on the knowledge and skills of five generations of craftsmen, Hästens uses a unique system of layers to provide both correct support and supreme comfort. Check out the Hästens '2000T II', Hästens 'Excelsior II' and Hästens 'Luxuria', all of which are hand-filled with horsehair and padded with natural fibres. Prices from £3,880 for the Hästens 'Excelsior II'.
Visit: www.hastens.com.

<<< PIBAMARMI AT MODO CUCINE

Modo have introduced a new collection of designer Italian bathroom furniture by Pibamarmi at their Cheshire showroom. Crafted from natural stone, each piece is unique and timeless in its appeal and can be ordered in a wide range of shades, ranging from white right through to black. And to ensure their ever-expanding range of stone products retain their original beauty for years to come, Modo has also launched a stone rejuvenation clinic.

Visit: www.modocucine.co.uk or tel. 0161 439 5508.

AN ILLUMINATING IDEA

Shed a little light on your garden this autumn with Indian Ocean's latest collection of outdoor lighting. Fashioned from materials chosen for their longevity in all weather conditions, such as teak, granite, stainless steel and zinc, innovative designs include the stunning 'Cobra'. The stainless steel 'Cobra' bollard light costs £625 and the matching wall light, £559.

Visit: www.indian-ocean.co.uk or tel. 020 8675 4808.

THINK TEXTURE IN THE KITCHEN

Tactile texture is the talk of the design world at the moment and Italian kitchen company Aster Cucine is definitely ahead of the field with its latest range, 'Atelier'. Featuring a lightly textured finish and unusual cabinet dimensions for added style and individuality, this versatile range is available in eight colourways, so there is something to suit every taste! Prices start at around £130 for a 600mm base unit.

To find you nearest Aster Cucine showroom visit: www.inhouseuk.net or call InHouse Inspired Room Design on 01661 842304.

SCENT-SATIONAL...

... is the only way to describe Jo Malone's latest fragrance, 'Vanilla & Anise', from £32. The stylish bottle is also a must-have for every design-conscious bathroom.

Visit: www.jomalone.co.uk or tel. 0870 034 2411.

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HOMES

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30 WEST YORKSHIRE
A self-build home in the Wharf Valley follows classic Arts and Crafts principles.

38 GREATER MANCHESTER
An eclectic mix of antique and modern makes a personal statement in a Wigan home.

47 NORTH YORKSHIRE
A tired bungalow makes way for a contemporary home full of light and space.

54 CHESHIRE
A 10-acre plot is transformed from a wasteland into a lush oasis bursting with colour.

THIS PAGE A large sun terrace at the front of the house allows Richard and Lisa to enjoy the best of the British weather. **RIGHT** Rusic wooden furniture appears throughout the home, and the Bradleys have an enviable wine cellar.

A Timeless Classic

A West Yorkshire couple who gave up the search for a home and built one themselves now live in a beautiful Arts and Crafts-inspired property overlooking the Wharf Valley. We paid a visit to find out how the Bradleys found such a great location for their dream home.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

"It seems to take clients ages to sort out a kitchen, so we said to Richard and Lisa to start the process whenever they were ready. Within 18 hours, they contacted us and said, 'Right, we've chosen the kitchen.'"

Richard and Lisa Bradley started looking for a home in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, during the height of the property boom three years ago. They knew exactly what they wanted: an old Victorian house with plenty of living space for themselves and their two young children, Max, six, and Sarah, four. The problem wasn't a lack of such properties, but the competitiveness of the housing market at that time. "Ilkley has a lot of Victorian properties but they don't often come up for sale," says Richard. "Those that did were snatched up before we even got there."

Richard's parents moved to Ilkley in 1976 when he was four, and still live in the same house that he played in as a child – a house with several acres of land, providing the perfect plot on which Richard and Lisa could build their new home. "Eventually, dad offered this plot for us to buy," says Richard.

To design their house, the Bradleys enlisted the help of Ilkley-based architects Sense Of Space, an award-winning practice with a reputation for sustainable and progressive architecture. To begin with, the couple wanted a Victorian-style property, but when Sense Of Space suggested an Arts and Crafts-inspired design, they changed their minds. "We wanted a home that was timeless," says Lisa. "Having never lived in a modern property before, we also wanted it to feel substantial; the doors were to be solid, and we wanted attention to detail on things like the architraves."

The relationship between architect and client isn't always plain sailing, but in the case of the Bradleys' home, everything went according to plan. The property was completed just one week after the scheduled completion date, and was even under budget. "Sense Of Space were fantastic, they were very quick at issuing information and drawings," says Richard. Similarly, the Bradleys were ideal clients, making quick decisions and being open-minded to the architects' suggestions. »»

THIS PAGE Exposed beams and a contemporary stone feature fireplace create a chic living room **OPPOSITE** Richard and Lisa's pooch loves the new home but skids a little on its shiny floors!

THIS PAGE Soft textures and a warm palette make the master bedroom a sumptuous and relaxing space. **RIGHT** Large windows let plenty of natural light flow throughout the Bradleys' home.

"We bore in mind that when our children become teenagers, they might want to move up to the loft and have their own en-suite. Or we might choose to go up there to get away from them!"

Lisa explains: "Both Richard and I are very practical people, so we were quite good at thinking of how we would use the house. We were also quite ruthless when it came to making decisions, in the sense that once we made a decision we stuck to it."

Richard Addenbrook, managing director of Sense Of Space, was particularly impressed with the Bradleys' speed at decision making. "Typically, one of the things that clients take ages to do is sort out a kitchen, so we advised Richard and Lisa to start the process as soon as they were ready. Within 18 hours, they contacted us and said, 'Right, we've chosen the kitchen.'"

The kitchen in question is hand-made, traditional in style and deliciously stylish. White-painted units and black work-surfaces adhere to the Arts and Crafts style, and a black Aga adds a touch of country cottage chic. The company behind the kitchen, Secret Drawer, hid a small cupboard somewhere within it – a 'secret drawer'. The Bradleys didn't find out about the hidden drawer until months after the kitchen had been fitted, as Richard explains: "After we moved into the house last December, one of the workmen asked me if I had found the secret drawer. I said, 'What do you mean, secret drawer?' And he explained that in every Secret Drawer kitchen there is a hidden drawer. Some people can have a kitchen for ten years and not know!" Despite his best efforts, Richard couldn't convince either the builders or the architects to reveal the location of the hidden drawer. "So I got up early on Christmas morning, before the kids were up, and began searching. I found it after about half an hour – I was so chuffed!"

The rest of the house has been designed to be simple, spacious and practical. A 'snug' next to the kitchen is the family's informal living room, with double doors leading out onto a terrace at the front of the house. A large entrance hall leads to the home's formal living room, which features a floor-to-ceiling brick fireplace, exposed beams and a soft »»»

"I actually designed the room to fit a pool table which we bought from a pub in Warrington. We also had an oak bar made. I know it's a bit naff, but it's a bit of fun!"

ADDRESS BOOK:

Award-winning architectural practice Sense Of Space designed the home. **Visit: www.senseofspace.net, email: enquiries@senseofspace.net or call: 01943 816 489.**

The kitchen was designed and built by Secret Drawer, Skipton. **www.secret-drawer.co.uk**

The lighting throughout the home is by Oldfield Lighting. **www.oldfieldlighting.co.uk**

Stephanie Hammond of Churchill Interiors sourced the home's furniture and provided interior design services. Stephanie also had all of the sofas custom made. **www.churchillinteriors.co.uk**

Ellison Construction Ltd, Wilsden were contracted to build the home. **www.ellisonconstruction.co.uk**

colour scheme of lilac and cream. The first floor comprises Max and Sarah's bedrooms (with blue and pink colour schemes respectively), Richard's office, the family bathroom and the master bedroom plus en-suite. A further 'loft' floor holds a spare bedroom and en-suite bathroom, and was designed to accommodate the family's future needs. "We were building the house for our family as it exists at the moment, with young children," says Lisa. "We bore in mind that when they become teenagers, one of them might want to move up to the loft and have their own en-suite. Or we might choose to go up there to get away from them!"

The final space of the house is the lower ground floor, housing a garage, wine cellar and Richard's favourite area, the games room. "I actually designed the room to fit a pool table which we bought from a pub in Warrington," he says. "We also had an oak bar made. I know it's a bit naff, but it's a bit of fun!"

The room is the perfect place for entertaining guests; something that Richard and Lisa knew would be a key function of the house. "We love entertaining," says Richard. "We love our friends and family coming round to stay – and we wanted a house that was big enough to accommodate guests."

The Bradleys' new home seamlessly blends the old with the new: Arts and Crafts architecture with contemporary, practical style – and all on the land Richard played football on as a child. "It's quite odd to think that my four-year-old daughter is living here at the same age as I was when I first moved here, and the views are the same."

FROM LEFT Max and Sarah love their new bedrooms and display their toys with pride. A beautiful oak staircase connects the home's three floors as well as making a stunning focal point.

MAIN BEDROOM

The couple have kept it clean and simple in the master bedroom. Adding a statement lamp is a great way to introduce neutral accessories without compromising on style. We've picked out the 'aurora' lamp from The White Company priced at £110 so you can create the look.

BEDROOM

Add a touch of colour and warmth to your bedroom with a cosy throw, Lisa and Richard have chosen a buttoned aubergine throw, we've found a similar one from BHS priced at £80. Go and get yours today.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Lisa and Richard Bradley's house is a traditional family home that employs simple styling and great attention to detail. Create this classic look in your home with our homely finds. **For stockist details see page 128**

KITCHEN

For practical family dining why not choose this kitchen barstool from Dwell, £75, it's the perfect striking statement piece with the added bonus of keeping with the trend.

BOYS ROOM

Lisa and Richard have added character and colour to their children's rooms. Create the look with colourful accessories such as Max's cheery bookends from Fairwind priced at £18.

MAIN BEDROOM

This dark oak 'sleigh' bed from Laura Ashley, £740, is the perfect way to add luxury and style to your bedroom, top with simple white bedding for a blissful sanctuary.

LIVING ROOM

Ensure that log fire remains burning with this simple yet stylish wicker basket from The Contemporary Home, £34.99. It's the perfect fireplace centrepiece and generously sized for storing wood.

LIVING ROOM

Bring the outdoors in with a stylish lantern. We've found the perfect contemporary buy in the 'Hampton' stainless steel lantern, £85, available from John Lewis.

Photography **Eleri Griffiths**
Words **Caroline Jones and Katie Cotgrave**

POP ART PALACE

By mixing antiques, quirky finds and bright modern pieces, the owner of this Wigan home has given the property a dramatic, enticing elegance.

BELOW Ashley's style mixes modern items like the striking red sofa with old, vintage and second-hand finds like the dining room rug.

"MY INSPIRATION? I SAW SOME FURNITURE ON *ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS* – QUITE BRIGHTLY PAINTED AND ETHNIC LOOKING – AND I THOUGHT, 'I COULD DO THAT'"

When Ashley and Julie Cadd were searching for their first house to buy together in Wigan two and a half years ago, despite Ashley's occupation as an interior designer, they were above all else looking for a home, not a project. "This was first and foremost going to be a home and not a showpiece," says Ashley. "I didn't want it to be a long drawn-out process. I didn't want to agonise over decisions; I've been doing that for other people. I wanted us to settle here, so everything was done reasonably quickly."

The Cadds found their three-bedroom Victorian house early on in the search. The home ticked the basic boxes they needed it to in terms of accommodation and location and Ashley knew the interior and exterior design could follow. "With this particular property it wasn't like I looked at it and thought we could do wild things with it," he says. "I just saw it as a potential home. When we bought it, it was clean and tidy and there was nothing wrong with it. It didn't need anything doing to it as such, apart from decorating and doing the garden. I just liked the look of it from the outside and the living space seemed to work."

Ashley, who trained as a chef before becoming an interior designer, was quick to give the home a basic canvas with the intention to take it from there. "I instantly painted everything white," he says. "A lot of the rooms were painted a colour when we bought the place but I thought, 'If I want to paint or wallpaper a wall in the future I will, but I'll do it white to start with.'"

True to his word Ashley went on to decorate many of the home's rooms – from the three bedrooms and upstairs bathroom to the hallway and downstairs living and dining area plus kitchen – in his own unique, eclectic style. He mixed bright canvases and vibrant furniture pieces with gothic-inspired chandeliers and fabulous art collectables such as a signed Jimi Hendrix »»»

BELOW Antique furniture is contrasted and brought to life with bright and bold furniture and accessories. **FAR RIGHT** Ashley didn't make any structural changes to the house when he bought it other than replacing the fireplaces.

"THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT THE HOUSE IS THE GARDEN, BECAUSE I DID IT ALL MYSELF FROM SCRATCH – IT'S BECOME REALLY A NICE SPACE TO USE"

print in the dining room – a sure-fire dinner party conversation starter!

"My personal interior style continues to evolve," confesses Ashley. "Properties that I've done for other people in the past have generally been pretty modern and fairly cutting edge – in terms of the furniture and the style of the kitchens and bathrooms and so on. And that probably is my style." Did he approach his own home with the same feeling? "I can't honestly answer, because I've just sort of bought things as I've gone along," says Ashley. "Some of them have been really old, which was probably me about 20 years ago when I was more into antiques. And now I've started using them more again – I just want something a bit mixed up, a little more eclectic I suppose. At one time I would have said my style was modern; I wouldn't have had bright cushions and things like that, it was very strict and clean. And years ago it was more antiques, but now it's a bit of both."

Antiques are what led Ashley away from his work in the kitchen and into interior design and setting up his own company, Habizzi Design, which offers interior and garden design to private clients and developers throughout the North West. "I trained as a chef – whether that has any influence on me at all I don't know… That made me quite tidy and regimented, and you have to have some kind of artistic flair if you're going to be any good at being a chef," says Ashley. "I worked for an antique restorer while I was doing that, to earn some extra money. It was for a friend of mine and I got into restoring furniture through him."

The jump from restoring furniture to owning his owner interior design company is one that interestingly involves late-90s sitcom *Absolutely Fabulous*, Harvey »»»

BELOW The garden was the home's biggest transformation and is now Ashley's favourite part of the property. It has a covered seated area big enough for four people, plus a separate dining space that accommodates six people.

Nicholls and a £50 sideboard. "About ten years ago, because of my furniture background, I bought five pieces of 1920s furniture for about £20 each, and I turned them into 'art furniture'. I cleared out the living room in the cottage I was living in at the time in the Cotswolds and made that into a workshop," says Ashley. "I'd seen some furniture on *Absolutely Fabulous* – they had a kitchen cupboard, two or three, it changed throughout the series, quite brightly painted and ethnic looking. I thought I could do something like that, so I bought all these different bits of furniture, brought them into the house, revamped them, and then sold them. That's how it started."

From there Ashley managed to get several of the pieces of furniture placed into Harvey Nicholls in London and a few other London shops. All the pieces sold, and they went for a lot more money than Ashley was expecting – one sideboard that he bought for £50 sold for over £800. Spotting the potential market Ashley set about revamping pieces into furniture art for a while, which eventually opened the interior design door and the path to Habizzi Design and the know-how for creating the chic home that Ashley has now created for himself and Julie.

While the home's stylish interior is without question one of its main attractions, Ashley's favourite aspect of the property is in fact the garden, which he completely redesigned and landscaped not long after completing the interior. "The thing I love most about the house is the garden, because I did it all myself from scratch," says Ashley. "It's become really a nice space to use. Before it was very boring and not very inviting – not very useable to sit in, or entertain and have fun in. That was the last thing I did to the place and it's probably the thing that I enjoyed doing the most as well."

ADDRESS BOOK:

Ashley was responsible for all design and interior aspects of the home. He owns his own interior and garden design company, Habizzi Design. Bespoke furniture pieces can be supplied by Ashley at trade prices plus a percentage. **For more information visit: www.habizzi.com or tel. 01942 224 911.**

Several of the light fittings throughout the home are from Next.
Visit: www.next.co.uk or tel. 0844 844 8000.

Some artwork in the home is by Vanessa Hawkins. **Visit: www.vanessahawkins.com for more information.**

The sari curtains in the second bedroom are from Indian Selections. **Visit: www.indianselections.com for further details.**

Some mirrors and cushions are from TK Maxx Manchester. **Visit: www.tkmaxx.com to find your nearest store.**

LIVING ROOM

Ashley and Julie have added a contemporary, clean and crisp white leather sofa to their living room, you can do the same with our find from Amode. The 'Porto' two-seat sofa is priced at £2,299.99.

KITCHEN

Take a look at the 'Ripple' chair from Dwell, priced £89, for comfortable contemporary seating that is right on trend for a dramatic, monochrome effect.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Interior designer Ashley and his wife Julie enjoy mixing old and new items in their colourful Wigan home. We've picked out some great buys so you too can create the same eclectic look. **For stockist details see page 128**

DINING ROOM

Add a hint of the Orient with this hand-printed cabinet, £1,080 from Supatra. Perfect for storage and creating a timeless centrepiece in any room in your home.

LANDING AREA

Add the 'wow' factor to your home with a digital print. Available from Digetex the 'I Love You All' range is priced at £145 – so make a statement today.

SPARE BEDROOM

Throughout their home Ashley and Julie have introduced French furniture pieces. Create the look with this classic 'Parisian' upholstered bed priced at £695 and available from The French Bedroom Company.

GARDEN

Relax outdoors in style with our perfect pick of furniture from Outer Eden. The 'Beskwere' range starts from £260 for a footstool.

MAIN BEDROOM

Add a statement lamp to your bedroom, the 'Lukas' chrome lamp from Next is the ideal buy at only £28.

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Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

ALL BOXED UP

The light, contemporary house that Michael and Beverly Proctor call home was originally a dingy dated bungalow. Four years after they purchased the ageing property it is finally a sleek family home complete with cinema room.

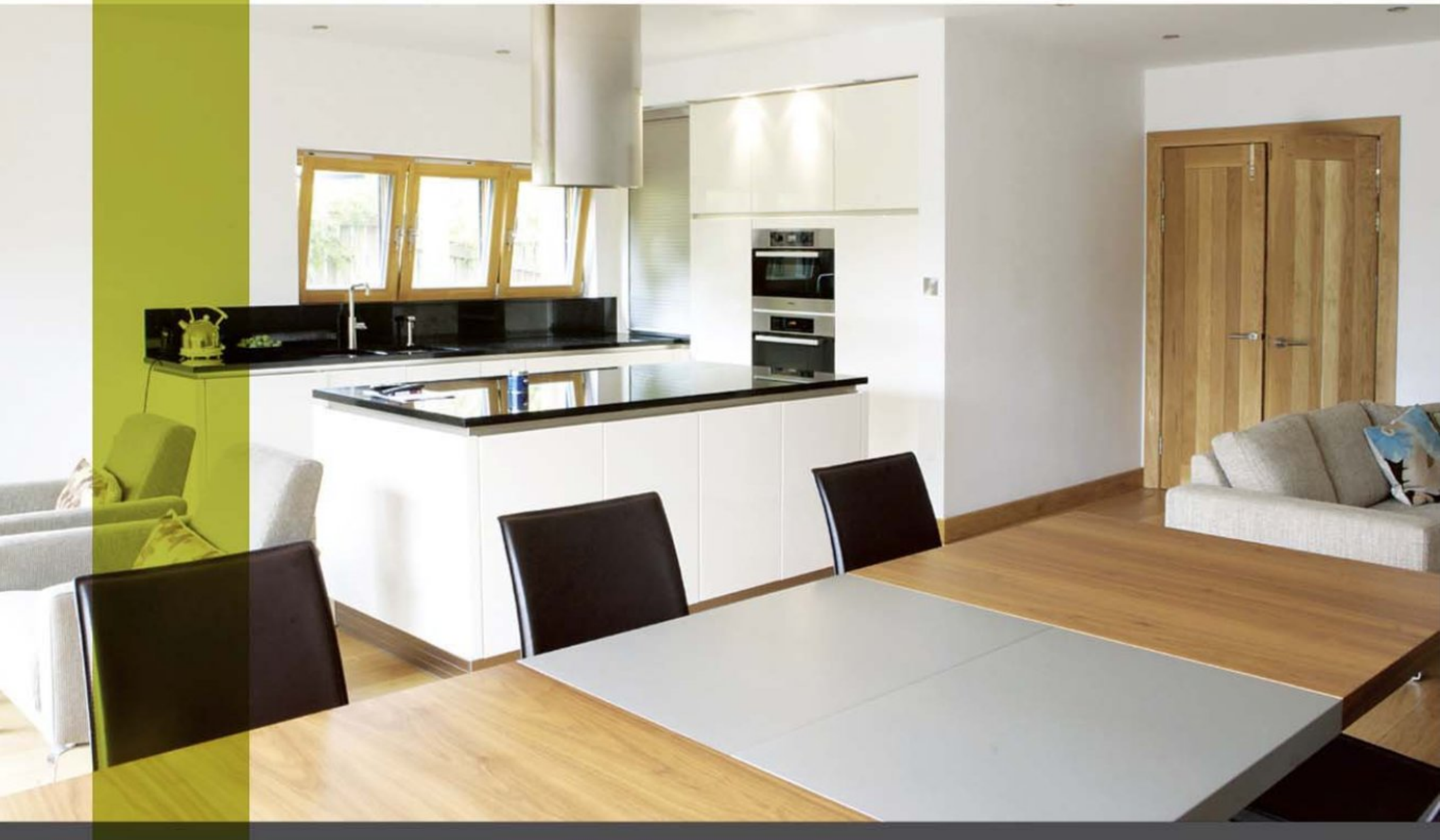
An open-plan kitchen, living and dining area provides an ideal family space.

When Michael and Beverly Proctor bought an old bungalow previously owned by an elderly lady in a sleepy Yorkshire residential street little did they know the journey they, and the property, would go on. "We always knew we'd be doing something with it," says Beverly. "But we didn't actually think we'd knock it down."

The bungalow, which came with a huge garden, only had two bedrooms but it was an unusual layout and boasted over 1,000 sq ft. The Proctors were in the process of selling their house and looking for a challenge but they initially discounted the bungalow, "It looked like too much work for us as a project," says Beverly. They kept one eye on it however; the property continued to stay on the market and as the price came down, the sale on their house coincidentally went through.

"This place had always been in my mind because it had such a huge garden, and I thought, 'Oh you could do so much with that plot,'" says Beverly. "Then Mike came and had a look at the garden and agreed it had potential, so we put in a daft offer. They didn't accept it, so we upped it a little bit and they accepted it!"

The Proctors' initial plan was a first-floor extension which was to transform the bungalow into a family home for them and their two young children, Evie, six and Charlie, nine. Planning »»»



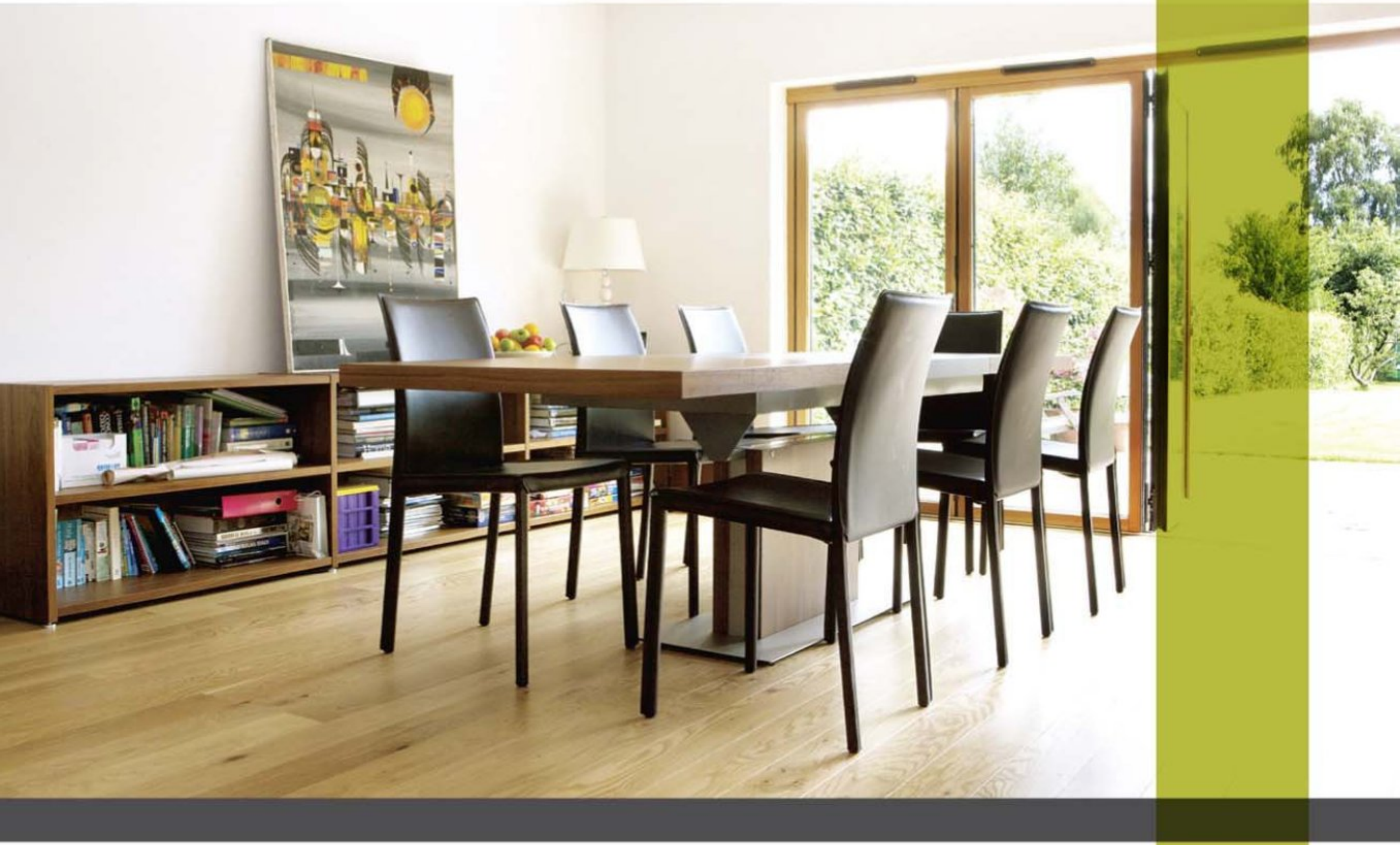
"I CAN'T IMAGINE SELLING THIS PLACE AND LETTING SOMEONE ELSE LIVE OR SLEEP HERE. IT'S OURS"

permission was granted, but a building inspection revealed the foundations weren't substantial enough to take the extension. It was then that the couple made the huge decision to demolish the bungalow and start from scratch. "In a way we chose to destroy the thing we'd bought and started with planning permission again. There was a huge risk related to that," says Michael. After a false start that involved a builder with no contract or specification which on the advice of a friend at work, led to the project being abandoned ten days before work was due to commence, the Proctors were introduced to _Space architects. _Space, in the guise of Nigel Pilkington and Tania Kosma offered Michael and Beverly a full specification and tender and also the commissioning of contract builders, but they briefed the couple that it would be six months before the project would go out to tender. Although this initially seemed like an eternity to the Proctors, the six months of painstaking planning proved its worth.

"The best thing we did was put money in the architects, because they were the people who drove this project," says Beverly. The full specification offered peace of mind, "So when we actually dug a hole in the ground, we knew everything – exactly how the property was going to be right down to the very last detail," she adds.

The architects' attention to detail didn't end there; thanks to the 400-plus-page tender they knew how the builders needed to do things, from the landing skylight to the zinc work. If a bath was put in the wrong way round, which it was, they insisted it be put right, "The architects would not compromise; everything had to be done to their exacting standards," says Beverly. "The thing for me is, you get to a point where the builder does something and you think, 'Oh God, I suppose I've got to accept »»»

ABOVE The Proctors' sofas came from BoConcept, while the cushions were sourced from TK Maxx. **BELOW** The dining area benefits from large amounts of natural light. **OPPOSITE** The Proctors knew they wanted a boxy, modern-look exterior.



"EMPLOYING THE ARCHITECTS WAS THE BEST THING WE DID – I'M NOT SURE WE'D BE IN NOW IF WE HADN'T HAD THEM"

OPPOSITE Light and airy spaces, sumptuous furniture, a sleek kitchen and attention to detail make for a stylish home. **THIS PAGE** The landing skylight was the vision of _Space architects and is without doubt one of the home's standout features.

it.' And the architect's behind you saying, 'No you won't.'

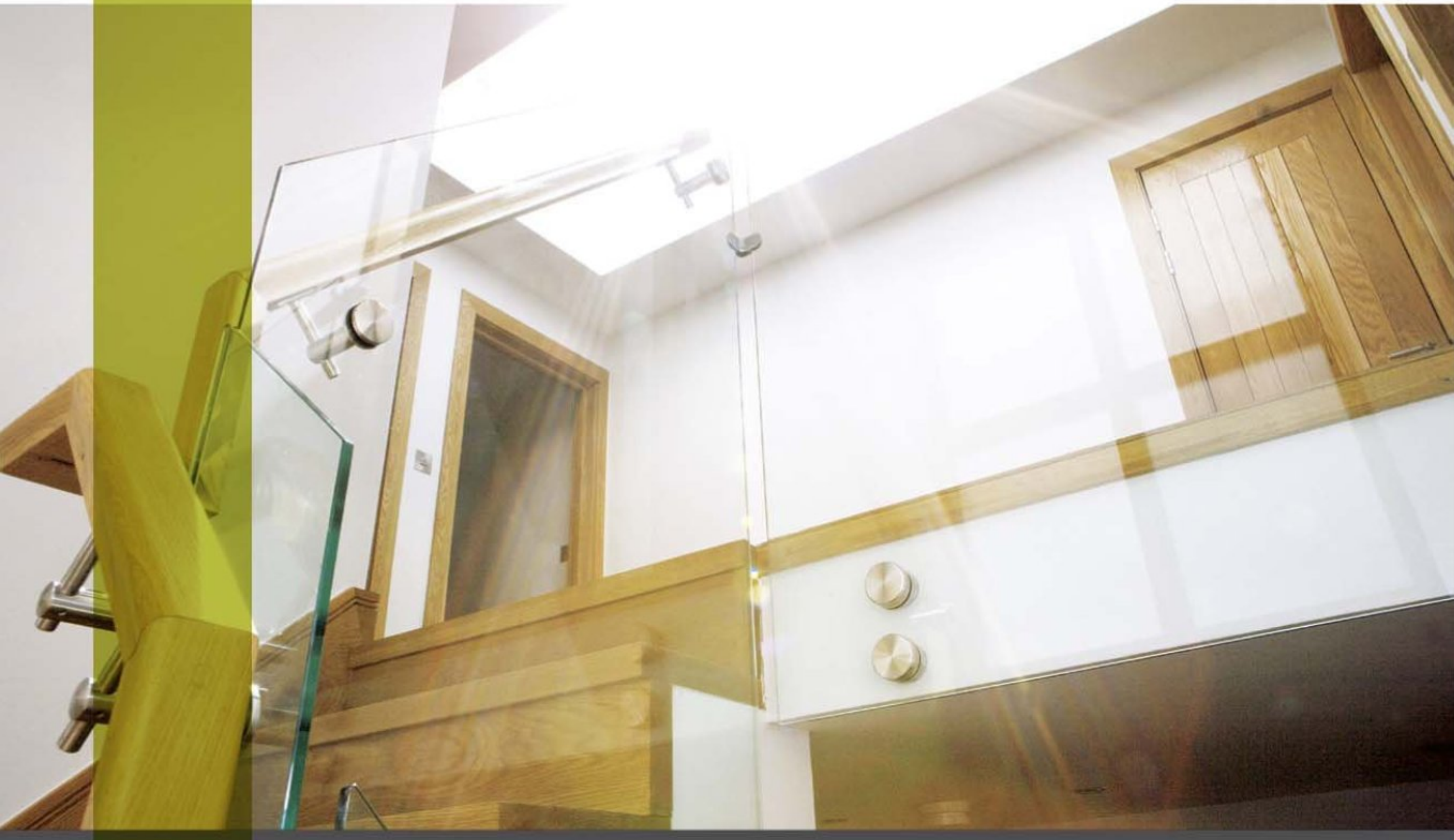
"They weren't project managers, they were contract managers; and they absolutely managed the contract throughout the build and the scheduling. I'm not sure where we'd be now if we hadn't had them."

Beverly and Michael gave as much thought to the interior of the home as they did to the build itself. Along with the architects, the other key contributors to the Proctors' project were Julie and Jamie of BoConcept and TMLine at Leeds' Redbrick Mill respectively. "We were recommended to go to Redbrick Mill and it was absolutely what we wanted for the house," says Beverly. "Julie and Jamie came out when the house didn't even have a roof on it and their attention to customer service was just fantastic. They made you feel like it was their job to get it right and they were very good at teasing out of us exactly what it was that we wanted and were looking for."

In total the project took four years from buying the bungalow to moving into the self-build. "We finally got the completion certificate last week," says Bev. "It was really strange for a long time, moving it from a project to a home."

The Proctors wanted a fresh start and a completely blank canvas, buying literally everything in the house brand new. "It's still very bare bones," says Beverly. "We got rid of everything when we moved here, but Jamie and Julie were great, they didn't try to sell us pictures or vases or anything like that. I wanted a finished product, but they were very keen to say, 'Wait, find out what you like.'"

As well as continuing to make the project feel more like a home, future plans also include a summerhouse at the bottom »»»



"WE DESTROYED THE THING WE'D BOUGHT IN A WAY AND STARTED WITH PLANNING PERMISSION AGAIN"

ADDRESS BOOK

The home was designed and project managed by _Space architects. **Visit: www.spacegroup.co.uk Yorkshire and Humberside; 1 Brewery Wharf, Leeds, 0844 800 6660.**

Much of the furniture in the home is from BoConcept (including he sofas and dining furniture) and TMLine (including the beds and wardrobes) at Redbrick Mill. **Visit: www.boconcept.co.uk, www.tmline.dk and www.redbrickmill.co.uk or tel. 01924 460 483.**

The TV and integrated sound system in the house are from Wall Of Sound in York. **Tel. 01904 750 128.**

of the very extensive garden. "The architects have already done the drawings for it and building is due to start in four weeks," says Michael. "It'll be facing the house, with a full glass front and a full glass back, with all the same zinc around the edges and shiplap timber to match the house."

The Proctors always dreamt of attempting a self-build. "We always wanted to build our own place one day," says Beverly. "We've owned two other places and there was just always something we wanted to change. I suppose it was a natural thing to do."

Michael and Beverly have worked hard to create their ideal home and once complete it's not something they plan on moving away from any time soon. "I can't imagine selling this place and letting someone else live or sleep here," says Michael. "It's ours. Even if it's just the two of us rattling around in it on our own in years to come."

The huge back garden is brilliant for entertaining in. Before the new build Mike and Beverly would enjoy bonfires with friends, now it's barbecues.

KITCHEN

Keep your kitchen cool, stylish and free from cooking odours, Mike and Bev have added a centrepiece extractor fan to their kitchen. Create the same striking look with the 'MO208' fan, from £690 available at Westin.

KID'S BEDROOM

Why compromise on style, keep the kid's room cool with this trendy light from Heal's, priced at £50 it's the perfect dazzling accessory that will brighten any room.

LIVING ROOM

Stay toasty warm this autumn with a centrepiece fireplace from Robey's. We've found the perfect match in the 'Rika Twist' stove. Prices start from £2,940.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Mike and Bev's cosy family home oozes style with spacious multi-functional rooms throughout. They have added character with quality furniture pieces and hints of colour. We've picked out the best buys to create the look in your home. **For stockist details see page 128**

LIVING ROOM

Throughout their home Mike and Bev have chosen furniture from BoConcept. They love their functional seating as it has the added luxury of also being stylish. For the perfect relaxing armchair why not add the 'Fly', from £782 and available in a variety of finishes.

GARDEN

Stay on trend both inside and out. For the perfect statement piece Mike and Bev chose the 'Bertoia' chair, we've found a similar buy priced at £478 and available from The Lollipop Shoppe, get yours today.

LIVING ROOM

Mike and Bev have introduced lime green into their living room. Do the same and add a hint of colour with a felt knit cushion, £25 from M&S.

SPARE BEDROOM

Add luxury accessories such as this stylish globe from Graham & Green, £89, and bring an element of travel into your home.

THIS PAGE Stone and wood sculptures hide around every corner, surrounded by lush green foliage and flowers. **RIGHT** The Japanese garden shows off a variety of Eastern plants and is completed with a vibrant red bridge across the pond.

Gardener's Delight

A sloping ten-acre plot in the heart of Cheshire has been transformed into a charming oasis of colour and foliage.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

A little under 15 years ago, Louise and David Worthington attended the auction for a cottage in the quaint village of Kelsall, Cheshire. They were successful in buying the property and set about creating a garden in the acres of derelict land attached. Before the couple knew it, they had developed the site into a beautiful sanctuary of colour and life, which they now open to the public. "It's a hobby that got out of hand," says Louise "We never intended to open it to the public. But we did lots of charity openings and the response was so good that we thought we'd give it a go."

The ten-acre garden of Mount Pleasant was officially opened to the public five years ago and holds a variety of planting; from a collection of exotics to a Japanese garden complete with pond and oriental-style bridge. Sandstone sculptures, carved by Louise's brother, Andrew, are dotted around the garden along with several other artworks. Last month Louise and David held their second annual sculpture exhibition, attracting more than 2000 people who came to see the outdoor art on display.

Explaining the variety of styles within the garden, Louise says: "Once we opened it up to the public we tried to make it interesting throughout the year." A tropical garden features hardy palm trees and bursts into colour during the summer months, while a bog garden provides a lush oasis for visitors to enjoy. In a large vegetable garden, Louise and David grow everything from carrots to fennel, and a natural pond and waterfall provide the garden's soundtrack; the soothing sound of trickling water.

Linking all these different areas is a network of meandering paths, meaning that you can be admiring a colourful herbaceous border one moment and then be confronted with a beautiful view of the Cheshire Plain the next. The fact that the whole site is on sloping ground initially presented a challenge to the Worthingtons, but the steep pathways add to the garden's charm. "I suppose you get used to it eventually," says Louise. "People who have flat gardens are always jealous that we've got a slope. And I'm always jealous of people with flat gardens! You can do something really formal with a flat garden – we don't really do formal." »»»

"It's a hobby that got out of hand. We never intended to open it to the public. But we did lots of charity openings and the response was so good that we thought we'd give it a go"

LEFT Elegant sculptures and dramatic planting create a refined look in the Japanese garden.
THIS PAGE Mount Pleasant is at its most colourful during the summer months, with an abundance of flowers and greenery.

"How many people get the chance to do something like this?"

Following the winding path up from the bog garden, the Japanese garden suddenly comes into view as an Eastern odyssey; a delightful interpretation of Japan's famous gardens featuring acers and rhododendrons as well as some more unusual planting. Continue up the path and you'll eventually discover a wild-flower meadow, brimming with pretty flowers and complemented by glorious views of the surrounding landscape.

The stunning gardens are what attracts visitors to Mount Pleasant, but that's not all it has to offer. Louise and David sell their home-grown plants and shrubs and Louise's brother runs sandstone carving workshops at the bottom of the garden. Visitors often ask for advice on their own gardens, as Louise explains: "People always ask questions, expecting me to know the answer, but I'm not an expert! You do learn, but it takes time. You never really stop learning with plants; there's always something new and you learn by your mistakes a lot of the time."

Mount Pleasant is located on the edge of Delamere Forest, making it the ideal start or end of a weekend walk. Even in the now-familiar English summer rain, the gardens are a beautiful and inspiring sight and well worth a visit. Louise and David spend the summer working in the gardens, creating new sections and trimming the established ones. "On some days when you're fed up, you have to remember that you wouldn't rather be doing anything else," says Louise. "How many people get the chance to do something like this?"

Mount Pleasant gardens are open from 12 to 5, Monday to Sunday. Admission is £3.50. Visit: www.mountpleasantgardens.co.uk to find out more.

THIS PAGE Louise and David's stone cottage overlooks the garden's natural pond and is hidden from view by shrubbery.

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BURNING ISSUES

Turn up the heat this autumn and winter with the latest fires, stoves and radiators. Keeping your home warm and welcoming has never been so chic, or easy.

Compiled by **Caroline Jones**

'Burlington' gas fireplace, £1,604.25, Chesney's.

FIRES

Get your home all fired up with one of these gorgeous fires.

For stockist details see page 128

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EXPERT **ADVICE**

What are the main things to consider when choosing a fire ?

"Firstly, does the property have a chimney or flue? If it doesn't this limits the range. Secondly, what fuel do you prefer – wood or coal for realism, gas for running costs, electricity for ultimate convenience? Thirdly, what is the styling of your room? Pick a design that matches the décor. And lastly, will the fire have to heat more than just the room it's in? If it will, choose a high output model ideally with a glass front (for efficiency)."
Richard Watts, Director, Emsworth Fireplaces and Chairman, National Fireplace Association

"Choosing the right fire depends on your specific requirements. Do you want it as a sole heat source or to complement a central heating system? Have you got an existing chimney or flue and, if not, are you able to install one? If you want a traditional coal or wood fire, are you prepared to do the work to store and carry the fuel and also do the cleaning required? A new carbon neutral alternative to traditional fires is the bioethanol fire. They are clean and convenient with virtually no maintenance or installation and can be used to complement a central heating system or replace a traditional fire."
John Rogers, Director of HopeRogers Ltd, Bioethanol Fires

"Whether you want a stylish ultra-modern look or a traditional style there's a fire to suit your lifestyle – the choice is simply enormous. No matter what you choose though, real fires and wood burners always add a nice homely touch and people somehow seem to gravitate towards them."
Mark Robey, Managing Director, Robeys

"When choosing a fire think about these three main aspects: One, fireplace architecture – a fireplace is lit on average 40 days a year therefore choose a design that has real design aesthetic, is visually appealing 365 days a year and fits your lifestyle. Two, light and space – if you have a big open plan space go for a bold fireplace that can be a fantastic central feature. Think outside the box; consider central, suspended designs, two sided glass designs or even corner fireplaces. And three, wood versus gas – with the increasing costs of gas, a wood-burning fire could be more cost efficient but more effort. How about a multi-fuel fire that can be converted to gas in the future?"
Daniel Sanders, Design Consultant, Modus Design

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1 Ekofires '5040' flueless gas floating fire, £449, Burning Desires. **2** Conmoto wall-mounted lounge fire, fuelled with bio alcohol, from £1,041, Encompass Furniture and Accessories. **3** Decorative gas fire with ceramic pebbles, £1,118, Stonewoods. **4** 'Phoenix' bioethanol free-standing floor fire, £2,599, Bioethanol Fires. **5** 'Dakota' fireplace, £1,374.25, Chesney's.

STOVES

Create a cosy feel with the ultimate winter warmer: a stunning stove.

For stockist details see page 128

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EXPERT **ADVICE**

What are the benefits of going for a stove?

"By opting for a solid fuel stove you save money on your fuel bills! Solid fuel stoves allow you to burn logs (100 per cent carbon neutral and the cheapest form of fuel when burned cleanly), or smokeless fuels. There is a vast amount of choice of designs and sizes to fit the most traditional or contemporary home. Some are also capable of providing whole house heating and domestic hot water."
David Knox, Stovax

"The benefits of opting for a stove is that they are: cleaner than an open fire; easier to control than an open fire and with the flue-less, gas stoves you can introduce a 'real flames' focal point into a room that doesn't have a fireplace or chimney; with certain stoves you can have a boiler and power your central heating; you can have a stove design to suit your house décor style; and you can take the stove with you if you move!"
Martin Ashby, Managing Director, Esse

"Wood-burning stoves will supply 75 per cent of the heat generated from your fuel outwards into your room, with only 25 per cent disappearing up the chimney. Open fires on the other hand, are likely to generate only 15-20 per cent of outward heat, so in effect you will need to put four logs onto an open fire to gain the same result as one log into a wood burner."
Nick Sloane, Managing Director of Jotul UK

"There are several good reasons for buying a wood-burning stove: wood burning is the cheapest type of heating, even if you have to buy the wood. Compared to the cost of running an oil-fired central-heating system, you will save a minimum of 50 per cent. Even compared to electric and gas heating, wood burning offers good value for money. The recent surges in both gas and electric prices have lead more and more people back to solid fuel as an economical heat source. In addition modern stoves are efficient, pleasant to look at and environmentally friendly."
Declan Walsh, General Manager, Morsø UK

"Aside from the fact there's nothing quite like a real fire, heating your home with a wood-burning stove can save you considerable money on fuel costs and will also drastically cut CO2 emissions. There are wood-burning stoves available that enable you to run full central heating systems and supply you with ample hot water. The perfect choice for those with an environmental conscience and a money-saving mind!"
Ced Wells, Creative Director, Charnwood

1 '7648' by Monica Ritterband stove, £1,825, Morsø. **2** 'F273' multi-fuel stove, £1,444.03, Jotul. **3** 'Scan '57' free-standing wood-burning stove, from £2,410, Burning Desires. **4** 'Turn' log burning stove, £4,014, Conmoto. **5** 'Cove' wood burning and multi-fuel stove, from £1,397, Charnwood. **6** 'Riva Vision' wood-burning or multi fuel-stove, from £1,195, Stovax.

RADIATORS

Whether you want subtle or statement there's a radiator for you here.

For stockist details see page 128

EXPERT **ADVICE**

Why are radiators still a great option for heating a home?

"Radiators are still a great option in the home for heating as they have a successful and proven history of being both practical and reliable. The aesthetics of designer radiators and towel warmers has been completely transformed over recent years. Giving an instant 'wow factor', the visual impact of a designer radiator can really lift the overall ambience of a room, becoming a focal point that friends and visitors are bound to comment on."
Steve Birch, National Sales Manager, Vogue (UK) Ltd

"The traditional double-panelled radiator remains a design classic providing effective heat distribution throughout the home. Moreover, the latest electric water-filled models ensure that every £1 spent on fuel is turned into usable heat thanks to precision time and temperature control on an individual room, zone or whole house basis."
David Garrity, Managing Director, Easy Heat

"Under-floor heating cannot achieve the delight one feels when wrapping a fluffy warm towel around you after it has been on a heated towel rail.
A radiator should be chosen primarily for its heat output. You have to measure the size of the space to be heated and work out what output is required. From there a style can be chosen, and of course, if the style of radiator that you choose doesn't offer enough output, then you can always buy two!"
Hayley Tarrington, Senior Designer, C.P. Hart

1 Electric water-filled radiator, £439.88, Easy Heat. **2** Cherub polish radiator, P.O.A., Stonewoods. **3** 'Icon' chrome radiator, £644, Feature Radiators. **4** 'Gaja' chrome vertical tube radiator, from £349.99, Agadon. **5** 'Aroma' towel warmer, from £3,500, Vogue (UK) LTD.

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A **SOCIABLE** SPACE

Words **Paula Woods**

The addition of a single storey extension transformed a compact kitchen into a fabulous multi-functional family room.

When Susan and Steven Jameson decided to build an extension to their family home in Northumberland, their aim was to create a large family room overlooking the garden. "The existing kitchen was simply too cramped for what we wanted - a well designed space for both family life and entertaining", explains Susan.

The couple turned to local kitchen experts Mowlem & Co who devised the resulting light, bright open-plan kitchen and living room. Susan and Steve chose rich walnut veneer units for their modern finish, which also lend a touch of glamour and warmth to what is otherwise a simple and neutral contemporary space. However it was Mowlem who suggested the impressive island. Wrapped in seamless, ultra-practical Corian®, it not only houses additional storage, a hob and sink, but acts as a sociable breakfast bar thanks to a striking raised glass section. "As most of the food preparation and cooking involves us looking out into the room, people tend to simply grab a stool and chat as we work," says Susan. Floor-to-ceiling wall units with built-in appliances and ample hidden storage complete the kitchen area and make the most of limited wall space.

THE COUPLE OPTED FOR STRIKING HIGH GRAINED WALNUT VENEER UNITS WITH A SLEEK HANDLE-LESS FINISH.

Throughout this open-plan space the couple have opted for a simple colour palette along with practical flooring in the form of limestone-effect porcelain tiles in order to harmonise the individual areas. And comfy chocolate brown sofas and timber furnishings again help tie the living area back to the walnut clad kitchen. While the decision to add a bank of glazed doors not only ensures the entire area is flooded with light, but also brings the outside in, making this the perfect year-round entertaining and family space. ■

ADDRESS BOOK:

The bespoke walnut kitchen is by Mowlem & Co.
Visit: www.mowlemandco.co.uk or tel. 0191 281 3443 or 01565 754 547.

The seamless worktop with integral sinks is fashioned from Corian®.
Visit: www.corian.co.uk or tel. 0800 962 116.

The simple Inox tap is by KWC.
Visit: www.kwc-uk.com or tel: 020 8675 9335.

Appliances include integrated ovens by Gaggenau.
Visit: www.gaggenau.com or tel. 08701 254 500.

The bespoke extraction system is by Westin.
Visit: www.westin.co.uk or tel. 01484 421585.

GET IT RIGHT... OPEN PLAN

1 ZONING

Plenty of space, open thoroughfares and separate functional zones are a must in an open-plan environment. Create specific areas - cooking, eating, relaxing - and plan access routes to avoid walking through busy work areas.

2 STORAGE

Adequate well planned storage is vital, so utilise islands or peninsulas and make full use of all available wall space. Play down the functionality of a hardworking kitchen area by keeping cabinetry and worktops streamline.

3 LIGHTING

You will require a versatile lighting scheme that can be adapted to reflect the various moods required. Look to task lighting in work areas and low-level lighting in social areas, and fit independent circuits for added flexibility.

4 ISLAND

An island unit delineates work from social areas while also providing extra storage and work space. Consider adding seating or incorporate a sink or hob that faces out into the room to allow for social interaction.

5 VENTILATION

An efficient and quiet extraction system is essential in an open-plan family room to ensure cooking smells and moisture do not permeate the entire area.

THE GENEROUS ISLAND HELPS DEFINE THE WORK AREA IN THIS WELCOMING FAMILY SPACE.

Ultimatt matt emulsion squares, £29 for 2.5lt, Little Greene

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Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

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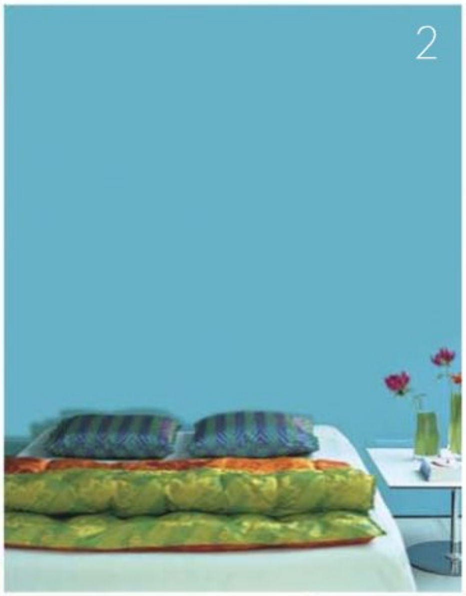

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"THE COLOUR EXPERTS AT DULUX HAVE IDENTIFIED A REFINED NEW TREND WITHIN HOME DÉCOR FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. A KEY FEATURE IS THE INTERPLAY OF WARM COLOURS WITH COOLER SHADES" ***Naomi Cleaver, Designer***

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1 'Home Of Colour' paint, £10.99 for 2.5lt, Homebase. **2** 'Aqua' matt emulsion paint, £24 for 2.5lt, Designers Guild. **3** 'Violet' and 'Rose' flat emulsion paint, £27 per 2.5lt, Zoffany. **4** Furniture paint, £3.99 for 750ml, Craig & Rose. **5** 'Goosberry Fool 4', 'Inky Pool 3' and 'Soft Moss 2' matt emulsion paint, £19.49 for 2.5lt, Dulux. **6** 'Herb Garden' matt emulsion, £13.99 for 2.5lt, Wickes. **7** Blackboard paint, from £2.50 for 125ml, Blackfriar. **8** 'Elegant Helmatt' flat matt emulsion paint, £29.49 for 3lt, table, chairs and woodwork in 'Elegant Aqua' satin finish, £18.99 for 1lt, Beckers. **9** 'Granite' matt emulsion, £24.95 for 2.5lt, Fired Earth.

For stockists details see page 128

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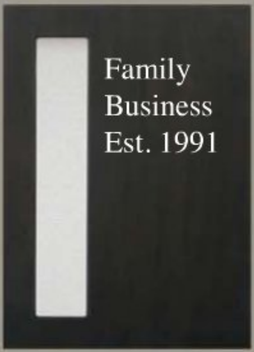

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"THE ADVANTAGE OF THESE 100% NATURAL PAINTS IS THAT THERE IS PRACTICALLY NO WASTE PRODUCED IN THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS AND THE PAINT IS KINDER TO PEOPLE BECAUSE INGREDIENTS ARE LESS LIKELY TO AGGRAVATE ALLERGIES AND BREATHING PROBLEMS"

Edward Bulmer, Pots of Paint

1 100% natural 'Pomona' paint, from £29.50 for 2.5lt, Pots of Paint. **2** Casein emulsion milk paint base £12.99 for 2.5lt and powder pigment £7.99, Urbane Living. **3** White CO2 neutral accredited 321 matt emulsion, £17.85 for 2.5lt, Auro. **4** 'Humpty Dumpty' claypaint, £23.45 for 2.5lt, Earthborn Paints. **5** Walls and ceiling in elegant 'Helmatt', £24.49 for 3lt, woodwork in elegant 'Aqua', £18.99 for 1lt, glossy 'Alkyd' floor paint, £46.49 for 3lt, Beckers.

For stockists details see page 128

TRADITIONAL

These soft chalky finishes complement both traditional and contemporary homes.

1 'Chalk Violet' matt emulsion, £24.95 for 2.5lt, Fired Earth. **2** 'Ceramic Blue' matt emulsion paint, £27 per 2.5lt, Sanderson. **3** Walls in 'Stone Dark Cool' English Heritage matt emulsion, £24 for 2.5lt, Lamp in 'Silt' acrylic eggshell, £32 for 2.5lt, Little Greene. **4** 'Pale Powder' Estate emulsion, £25.50 for 2.5lt, Farrow & Ball. **5** 'Ultramarine Ashes' matt emulsion and 'Silica' white matt emulsion, £24.95 for 2.5lt, Fired Earth.

For stockists details see page 128

PAINT TYPES

EMULSION Water-based paint with a matt, soft sheen or high sheen (silk) finish. Decorative finishes, such as metallic, also available.

WASHABLE EMULSION Water-based acrylic paint with a mid sheen finish. More hardwearing than standard emulsion.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM Water-based paint that is moisture resistant and contains a special mould inhibitor. Has a soft sheen finish.

SATIN An oil or water-based paint with a mid sheen finish. Often does not require a primer.

SPECIALIST FINISHES Paints formulated for a specific purpose such as kitchen cupboards, tiles, radiators and floors. An acrylic-based mid sheen multi-surface paint is also available.

EGGSHELL Traditionally an oil-based paint but a water-based alternative is also available. Has a low sheen finish.

GLOSS Traditionally an oil-based paint but fast drying water-based gloss is also available. Has a high sheen finish and requires a primer.

FLAT OIL Oil-based paint with a matt, non-reflective finish. Requires a primer.

ECO-FRIENDLY Natural pigment paints, free of solvents and VOCs (volatile organic compounds). Available in all finishes.

SURFACE SOLUTIONS

WALLS AND CEILING Emulsion paint. In high traffic areas try a durable silk finish, a washable emulsion or flat oil. In kitchen and bathrooms consider a water and mould resistant paint.

WOOD Flat oil, eggshell, satin or gloss.

MDF Specialist primer plus flat oil, eggshell, gloss or satin.

MELAMINE Specialist primer plus melamine or oil-based paint.

METAL Specialist paint, gloss, eggshell or satin.

FLOORS Specialist paint, gloss, satin or eggshell paint.

RADIATORS Specialist paint or enamel. Gloss although it may discolour over time.

TOP TIPS

CHECK YOUR TINS Paints with low VOCs have less odour and are more environmentally sound.

BE PREPARED A good finish is dependent on good preparation Make sure surfaces are clean and smooth prior to painting and apply any primer or undercoat as recommended by the manufacturer.

WORK SCHEDULE Work from the ceiling down, to prevent splashing freshly painted walls and woodwork.

CALCULATING COVERAGE As a general rule, 2.5 litres of emulsion will cover around 30sqm. 1 litre of gloss, satin or eggshell will cover around 12 sqm.

POINT OF ORDER If opting for a mixed-to-order paint, make sure you buy enough to complete the job as subsequent mixed batches may vary in colour.

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'Beulah' Aspace four-poster bed, £495, from Heal's.

CREATIVE KIDS' ROOMS

From funky wallpaper and bold bedsteads to pretty linens and practical storage, check out what's on offer when creating a colourful and contemporary bedroom.

BEDROOM SOLUTIONS

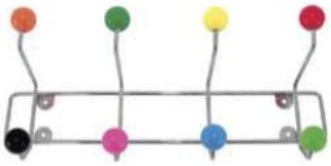
BOYS

GIRLS

BOYS FROM TOP 'Vermont' oak bed, £379, bookcase, £195, patchwork quilts, £135, Aspace. 'Tiramolla' collection, from £5,000, Roche Bobois. Bunk beds, from £595, Warren Evans. **GIRLS FROM TOP** 'Grace' sleigh bedstead, from £425, 'Noah' desk £199, 'Sanna' bed linen, from £10 for a pillowcase, Feather & Black. 'Candy' bed, P.O.A, Bonaldo. 'Milkshake' single bed, £495, drawers, £565, hanging shelves, £95, and 'Amish Poppy' duvet cover and pillowcase, £49, The Children's Furniture Company.

For stockist details see page 128

FINISHING TOUCHES



TOP ROW FROM LEFT 'Skyline' high gloss tallboy, £199, Funky Kids Furniture. Retro coat hook, £12.99, The Contemporary Home. Owl wall clock, £74, The Lollipop Shoppe. 'Jamie' boxes, £30 per set, Laura Ashley. Apple rug, £98, Michelle Mason. Cushion, £20, Hunkydory Home. **MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT** 'Air de Je' bed set (undersheet and pillow), £73, and quilted cover, £79, from the 'Highlands' Collection, Bobo Kids. 'Flutterflies' wall stickers, £50, Aspace. 'Far Far Away' collection, from £25 per metre, Harlequin. **BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT** 'Automania' wallpaper, £49 per roll, Cole & Son. ABC letters, £17, Cox & Cox. 'Patch Kitten' single duvet cover and pillowcase, £29.50, Marks & Spencer.

For stockist details see page 128

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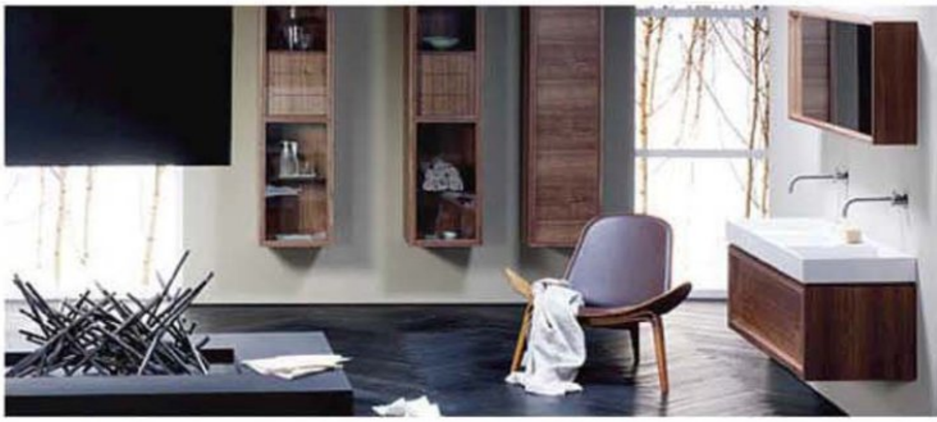

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SieMatic burg DORN BRACHT GAGGENAU GWINNER KOINOR LEOLUX WOLF

Compiled by **Caroline Jones**

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN!

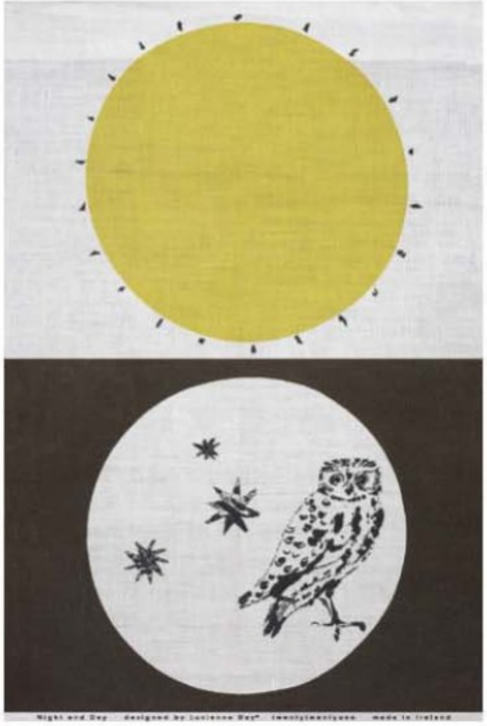
As the season changes it doesn't mean you have to spend less time surrounded by mother nature – just bring the garden inside and add a contemporary twist to the natural world.

'Manali' wallpaper, £44 per roll, Osborne & Little.

WALL COVERINGS

Don't leave nature out in the cold this autumn, see it all around you with a well-chosen wallpaper or wallsticker – it'll boost your mood and bring your rooms up-to-date.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT 'Branches' wall stickers, £79.96, Rockett St George. Sanderson 'Dandelion Clock' wallpaper, £31 per roll, Wallpaperdirect. 'Family Tree' wallpaper, £45 per roll, Brume. 'Coded Flower' wallpaper, £15 per roll, Content by Conran Hourglass side table, £245, BTC medium pleated lamp, £109, all John Lewis. 'Juliet' wallpaper, £28 per roll, Graham & Brown.



CHINA & ACCESSORIES

Let your home nod to the nature trend this season without having to make a major commitment. Opt for a natural selection of simple accessories.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Poppy wall art, £39.95, House of Bath. Love Bird Canvas £49, Digitex. TwentyTwentyOne 'Lucienne' teatowel, £16, The Lollipop Shoppe. 'Secret Garden' dessert plate, £6.75, Portmeirion. Andrew Tanner 'Birds Silhouette' plate, £69, John Lewis. 8-cup cafetiere, £30, La Cafetière.

3 OF THE BEST **CUSHIONS**

Want a super-quick way to add some flora and fauna to your home interior? There's no easier way than throwing a few cushions into the mix...

'Bird Tree' cushion, £43, Rume.

'Padstow' cushion, £16, Bhs.

'Bamboo' cushion, £15.99, Dunelm Mill.

FABRICS & FURNISHINGS

Add a fresh feel to your interior with fabulous light, bright, nature-inspired fabrics and furnishings. Having a keen interest in the garden has never been so enjoyable or stylish.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT 'Nimbus Rose Gold' fabric, £35 per m, John Lewis. 'Samsara' contemporary print fabric from £29.95 per m, Romo. Rose Fabric, £39 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. 'Bakari' collection fabrics, from £32 per m, and 'Entwine' wallpaper, £33 per roll, Harlequin. 'Dragonfly' roman blind, £220, Novatec.

Daisy...... Daisy......

elephant designer beanbags

Oversized and generously filled, Elephant beanbags definitely live up to their name and are a cost-effective way of injecting funky colour and designer prints into kids' bedrooms, family rooms, games rooms and teenage dens. Go for a single splash or group two or three together for a paint-box effect – Elephants look even better in herds! These versatile seating solutions are great for parties and sleepovers, providing soft support for all the family in durable, wipe-clean fabrics. Better yet, the Jumbos weigh in at a mighty 140cm x 180cm.

Visit www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk to view our full range, request colour swatches and order. Or call 01386 423760

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1

'Flo' salt and pepper mill, £26 each, David Mellor Design.

STYLIST'S PICK

2

'Alessi' mr & mrs chin salt and pepper, £27 for set, John Lewis.

3

'TU' bamboo salt and pepper grinders, £4.99 each, Sainsbury's.

TEN OF THE **BEST**

SALT AND PEPPER SHAKERS

Shake it up in style with our chic collection of salt and pepper mills.

4

'Liberty' salt and pepper mills, £2.99 for set, Dunelm Mill.

5

'Billie' salt and pepper mills, £12 each, Habitat.

6

'Menu' lighthouse salt and pepper shakers, £21.52 for set, Amaroni.

7

'Ittala' salt and pepper mills, £68.97 for set, Nest.

8

Floral salt and pepper mills, £22 for set, Ezstyle.

9

Salt and pepper terriers, £4.95 for set, Dwell.

10

'Koziol' salt and pepper shakers, £22.50 for set, Heal's.

'Cucu' clock, £129, Barker and Stonehouse.

'Vitra' sunburst clock, from £162.40, Utility Design.

Chalkboard clock, £30, Utility Design.

Light blue magnetic clock, £17.50, Homewares & Gifts.

Chrome quad clock, £30, Burford.

TIME OUT

Keep ahead with your time keeping. With the clocks going back this October we've picked some of the latest stylish buys to brighten up your home. For stockist details see page 128.

Stylist **Katie Cotgrave** Photographer **Eleri Griffiths** Assistant **Dave Paddy**
Location **Drew Pritchard Limited**

'Clark' clocks, £14 each, Habitat.

Starburst clock, £74.99, The Contemporary Home.

Magic mirror clock, £20, My Living Space.

'Karlsson' flip calender, £109.99, Hiccup Gifts.

'Manchester Evening News' books, from £25, Drew Pritchard Limited.

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Simon Green

WIN A DESIGNER BATHROOM STORAGE UNIT

Fancy a design classic for your bathroom? Thanks to Ripples Chester one lucky *CFL* reader could win this fabulous 'Xenon 360' storage unit worth over £300!

Today's bathroom is a haven away from the pressures of everyday life and this approach is reflected in the latest bathroom designs, with clean lines and clutter-free surfaces the order of the day.

Ripples, the premium bathroom company that continually strives for excellence, has been creating award-winning bathrooms for over 21 years. Ripples Chester predicts designs will place an emphasis on simple, streamline and classy minimalism, while concealed storage will be more abundant in a quest to create more visual space.

The Samuel Heath 'Xenon' range encompasses taps, showers and bathroom accessories. Each product meets the demands of modern living and is meticulously crafted from the purest European brass and hand polished and chrome-plated in 34 individual processes. The 'Xenon' range has become a design classic for lovers of minimalism and for those looking to combine form with functionality the 'Xenon 360' storage unit is a must. This covetable bathroom organiser, complete with mirror, rotates 360 degrees to reveal three roomy storage compartments.

Ripples, 7 Lower Bridge Street, Chester, CH1 1RS. Tel. 01244 340482 or visit: www.ripples.ltd.uk

bathrooms by
Ripples

THE PRIZE

We've teamed up with Ripples Chester to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a fabulous 'Xenon 360' storage unit worth £315.79.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter simply answer the following question:

How many years has Ripples been creating award-winning bathrooms?

A Over 10 years **B** Over 15 years **C** Over 21 years.

Email your answer to competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk with 'Ripples' in the subject box and state you name, address, email address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: Ripples Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions apply. The prize is subject to availability, non transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for all entries is midnight 20 October 2009.

Compiled by Jennie Musgrove

DISCOVERY **SPACE**

For this month's Discovery Space we reveal a fabulous boutique hotel in Harrogate, review a new book exploring the artistic uses of paper and track down Barcelona-based rug designer, Nani Marquina.

For stockists see page 128.

WORTH A VISIT

The Balmoral Hotel, Harrogate

On a leafy street in the spa town of Harrogate stands The Balmoral, a beautiful boutique hotel set among picturesque gardens. The 100-year-old building has undergone extensive refurbishment and now has a style which blends contemporary chic with traditional luxury.

The hotel comprises 23 en-suite rooms featuring black plasma TVs, beautiful French armoires, richly coloured traditional upholstery, handmade quilts and designer wallpaper. There's also a bar and adjoining restaurant which has taken inspiration from the unpretentious bistros of Paris.

With a relaxed atmosphere and sumptuous fixtures and fittings, The Balmoral is the ideal destination for a romantic getaway or weekend break. **Prices start from £99 for a single room. www.balmoralhotel.co.uk**

CLASSIC SPACE

Arne Jacobsen's Egg Chair

Modern yet timeless, the Egg Chair was originally designed by Arne Jacobsen in 1958 for the SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen. The chair's instantly recognisable silhouette and star-shaped swivel base have secured its position as a design classic, and it is a prefect example of modern design combining style with comfort. The Egg Chair is manufactured in Denmark by Fritz Hansen and can be upholstered in wool or leather.

GET THE LOOK
TIRUP Swivel armchair, £199, IKEA
www.ikea.com

INVESTMENT BUY
Egg Chair, £4,049, Utility
www.utilitydesign.co.uk

WEBSPACE

www.dezeen.com

Since its launch in November 2006, Dezeen has become one of the most popular and influential architecture and design blogs on the web. More than one million people visit the site every month to find out about the latest innovations in design – from seats inspired by the imprints people leave behind in the sand (Dutch design graduate Erwin Zwiers), to a Mexican architect's take on traditional cave dwellings for a house in Inner Mongolia. **Dezeen is edited by Marcus Fairs, author of *Twenty-First Century Design* (published by Carlton Books in October 2006) and former editor of icon magazine.**

ON OUR RADAR

Ms Nani Marquina

Designer and businesswoman Nani Marquina is the daughter of Spanish design pioneer Rafael Marquina and founded Nanimarquina more than 20 years ago. Since then, the Barcelona-based company has won numerous awards for its captivating rugs, known for their unique textures, patterns and shapes. We find out more about the lady behind the beautiful rugs.

HOW IS YOUR WORK INFLUENCED BY WHERE YOU LIVE?
I live in Barcelona, one of the most popular design cities. I'm very influenced by the environment here, design is everywhere!

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST MEMORY?
I especially remember when I was a child and I used to go to the Costa Brava beach with my family.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?
I'm always looking for new ideas, concepts; everything can inspire me, especially when I travel and encounter new things. The point is to have an open mind and to always have ideas in your mind.

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
I'd love to go to the Himalayas.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
Travelling!

WHAT IS YOUR MOST TREASURED POSSESSION?
My traditional fabrics collection. I'm always

buying new pieces of traditional fabric when I travel and I keep them tenderly.

WHAT SINGLE THING WOULD IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF YOUR LIFE?
Being less demanding, working less and resting more.

WHO WOULD YOU INVITE TO YOUR DREAM DINNER PARTY?
Maybe some people that I didn't know personally would disappoint me... so I'd rather have a dinner party with my close friends.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK IN TIME, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
Nowhere. I like the moment I live in.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE, AND WHY?
I admire all people who give their life for others.

WHAT'S THE BEST BOOK YOU'VE EVER READ?
The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?
We are now working on a new range of wood products made in Africa. It's a brand new adventure for us, we are really enjoying it and, of course, these pieces will have Nanimarquina's essence.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON LIFE HAS TAUGHT YOU?
After my first trip to India I realised that all people are equal everywhere; it doesn't matter what race, culture, religion. We all have the same needs.

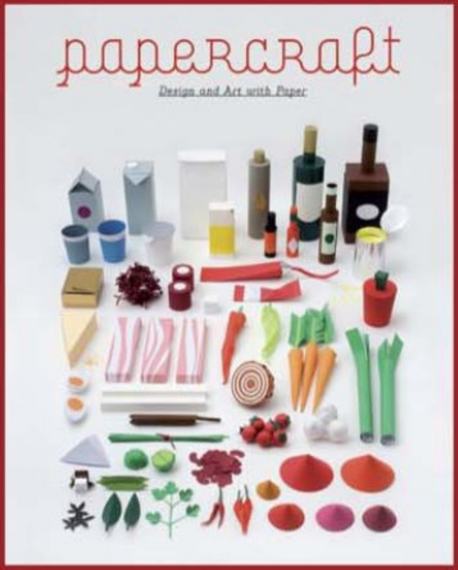
TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY?
Both

COLOUR OR BLACK AND WHITE?
Colour

SUMMER OR WINTER?
Summer

WWW.NANIMARQUINA.COM

Global Warming Bear Rug, Nanimarquina



BOOKMARK

Papercraft: Design and Art with Paper

Editors: R. Klanten, S. Ehmann, B. Meyer

Since its origination in Japan more than a thousand years ago, paper art has been quietly growing in popularity and is now recognised as an influential and ever-expanding area of design. *Papercraft* explores this trend and showcases the astounding possibilities of paper – from small objects and figures to large-scale art installations and urban interventions.

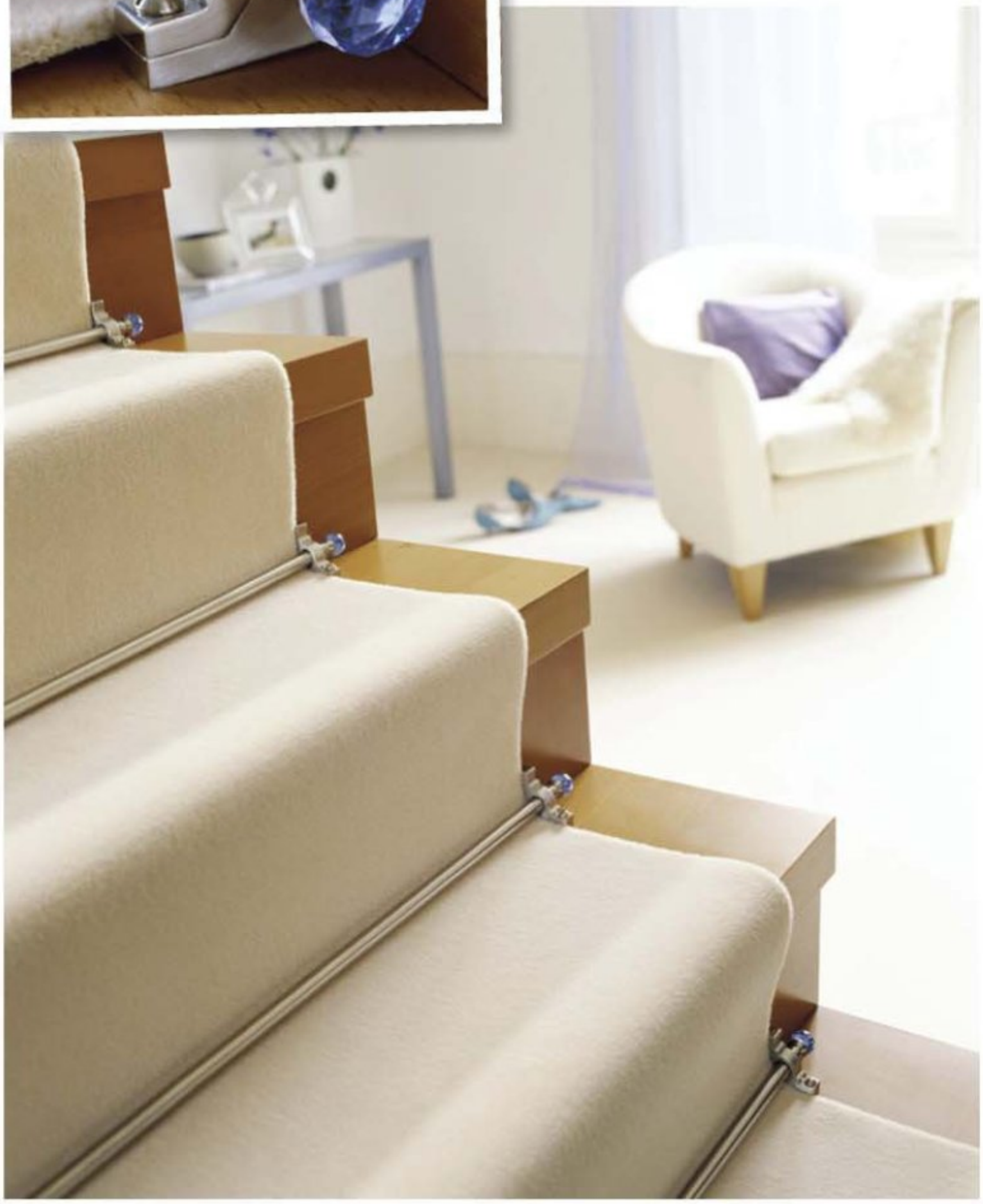
Quirky, unusual and superbly inventive, the designs in this book will inspire you to create your own paper masterpiece. There's also a DVD included with printable templates for DIY paper projects, as well as a selection of the best stop-motion animations.

Published by Gestalten
Available now
Price: £40
www.gestalten.com

WIN! SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL STAIR RODS

WIN! CRYSTAL STAIR RODS IN A CHOICE OF COLOURS

Looking to bring a touch of glamour to your staircase? Thanks to Stairrods (UK), you could win a fabulous set of Swarovski crystal stair rods worth £377.



To celebrate its 25th anniversary Stairrods (UK) is offering one lucky *CFL* reader the chance to win a set of 13 Swarovski crystal stair rods. Designed for both stair runners and fitted carpets, each rod is tipped with an attractive, cut-glass crystal finial, which sparkles and catches the light to create an eye-catching focal point for any staircase.

Crystal finials are available in a choice of rose, amber, clear (rainbow) and sky (blue) and each made-to-measure rod is crafted from thick gauge, 12.5mm diameter, hollow aluminium in a choice of seven metal finishes: traditional polished brass, satin brass and antique brass, polished chrome, satin nickel, black and pewter. The winner will receive a set of 13 rods, ideal for an average staircase, in the colour and finish of their choice.

Matching brackets are supplied with each rod. For a stair runner hinged brackets are usually placed on either side of the carpet, allowing a 5cm overhang on either side. For fitted carpet non-hinged brackets are provided. These neatly clip over the rod to hold it in place and are attached to the staircase through the carpet.

Stairrods (UK) is a specialist in decorative flooring accessories and offers an extensive range of made-to-measure stair rods, for the traditional and modern home, door thresholds and Easybind, a specialist DIY rug and runner trim. For homeowners, who want to refurbish existing stair rods and clips, the company provides a useful re-finishing service and for unusually shaped stairs a bespoke service is also available.

For a brochure and stockist information contact Stairrods (UK) call 01207 591543 or visit: www.stairrods.co.uk.

THE PRIZE

CFL has teamed up with Stairrods (UK) to offer one lucky reader the chance to win a set of 13 Swarovski crystal stair rods in any finish and colour worth £377.

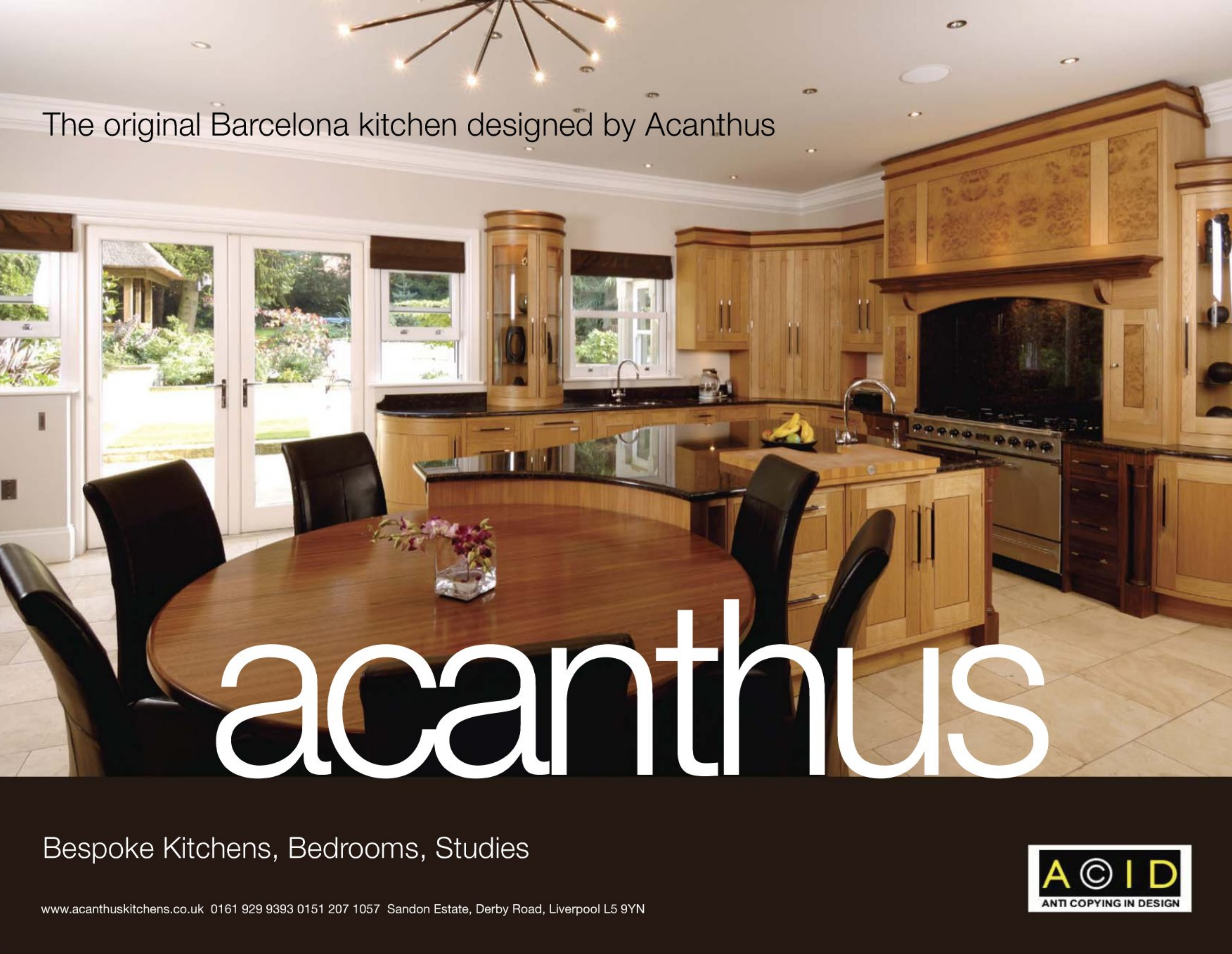
HOW TO ENTER

To enter simply answer the following question:
Are Crystal stair rods suitable for
A Runner Carpets **B** Fitted Carpets
C Both Runner and Fitted Carpets?

Email your answer to competitions@conceptforliving.co.uk with 'Stairrods (UK)' in the subject box and state you name, address, email address and daytime telephone number. Or, post your entry to: Stairrods (UK) Competition, *Concept For Living*, The Old School, Higher Kinnerton, Chester, CH4 9AJ.

SR STAIRRODS (UK) Ltd

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
Full terms and conditions apply. The prize is subject to availability, non transferable and there is no cash alternative. Closing date for all entries is midnight 20 October 2009.



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BACKSTAGE AT

THE SECRET DRAWER

Have you ever wondered how kitchens are made? In the second of our new behind-the-scenes feature, we visit The Secret Drawer workshop in Skipton, North Yorkshire, to see how a tree becomes a cabinet.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

TOP DRAWERS!

1 ON LOCATION

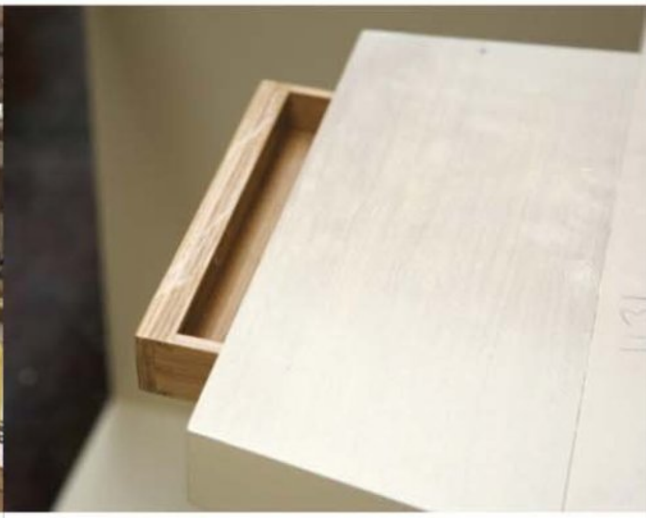
The Secret Drawer has showrooms in Ilkley and Cononley. Once a customer has decided to have a Secret Drawer kitchen, Richard, founder of the company pays a visit to see where it will go. "I have a meeting with the potential client and ask them for their wishes," he says. "We also provide the customers with a temporary kitchen. It is exciting getting a new kitchen but your interest wanes when you've been washing up in the bath for two weeks!"

2 DRAWING A DESIGN

"From the first meeting I'll get enough information to come up with an initial design proposal from which I can get a quotation, and from there draw more detailed designs," says Richard. "The design stages are so important. Whichever room we're looking at, it's got to flow and it's got to be practical. The furniture's got to have good proportions. And through that you get a timeless piece of furniture, because those three ingredients never go out of fashion."

3 DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Oak cabinets with grey granite worktops, a circular walnut chopping board set into an island, blue-painted cupboards – when it comes to deciding what kind of kitchen to go for, customers are spoilt for choice. Available timbers range from oak, walnut and sycamore to mahogany, pippy oak and tulip wood, while hundreds of Farrow and Ball shades are on offer for those wanting painted units. And if you still can't decide, The Secret Drawer employs an interior designer to create a scheme for the whole room.



4 INTO THE WORKSHOP

When complete, Richard's designs find their way to the Secret Drawer workshop. There are currently five cabinet makers, with each one making a product from start to finish. "The workshop is the proof and I invite clients down to see what time and effort really goes in," says Richard.

5 A TRADITIONAL ETHOS

Despite the introduction of CAD and other digital ways of designing, the Secret Drawer has retained its traditional methods. "I still design on a drawing board with a pencil, which is quite rare these days," says Richard. "I prefer it, and it goes with the whole ethos of the company; it's a very hand-made product."

6 THE SECRET DRAWER

As the company name suggests, every piece of furniture Richard and his team make has a secret drawer. These can be anywhere and cabinet makers are encouraged to come up with inventive ways and places to hide them – there's even an annual competition for the most innovative secret drawer. "There are still some secret drawers out there that have yet to be discovered because, perhaps bizarrely, we don't make a song and dance about it. I never wanted it to be seen as a gimmick; it's the quality of the furniture that is the reason people buy Secret Drawer furniture."

»»»

THE SECRET'S OUT!

7 WASTE NOT WANT NOT

The Secret Drawer is environmentally aware and none of the leftover waste in the workshop is thrown in the bin. "We have a wood burning stove where we burn all our own waste and all our clients' waste," explains Richard. "In the winter it heats the workshop, and it reduces our landfill waste considerably. All the sawdust waste that we accumulate goes to a local farmer who uses it for animal bedding."

8 POLISH AND PAINT

When a cabinet maker has finished his part of the process and all the components of the kitchen are made, sanded and fitted together, a painter steps in for the finishing touches. "Typically a kitchen will take two or three weeks to paint, and it's only when a kitchen is fully fitted in the client's home that it'll get a last coat of paint or polish," says Richard.

9 INSTALLATION

Having watched the kitchen being created over an average period of ten weeks, it's now time for Richard to revisit the client's home – this time, to install their new furniture. "It's the best part of the job," he says. The cabinet maker who made the kitchen will visit the site for the first few days of installation to aid the on-site fitter. An electrician and plumber are contracted to help with the installation.

10 THE END PRODUCT

When the kitchen has been designed, made, polished and installed, there's only one thing left for the customer to do – find the secret drawer! The average price for a Secret Drawer kitchen is between £35,000 and £65,000, and the hand-made, bespoke quality of the furniture speaks for itself.

MEET THE MANAGER

At just 14, Richard Mason made his first workbench in his parents' garage. After leaving school he became an apprentice at a local cabinet making firm and left at 21 to work for himself. Several years and a lot of hard work later, Richard founded The Secret Drawer which now provides bespoke hand-made furniture for kitchens, bedrooms, bathrooms and more to homes across the UK.

"What you see here now is an accumulation of that first day when I became self employed at 21. I work seven days a week but I love my job and I get a massive amount of satisfaction from it."

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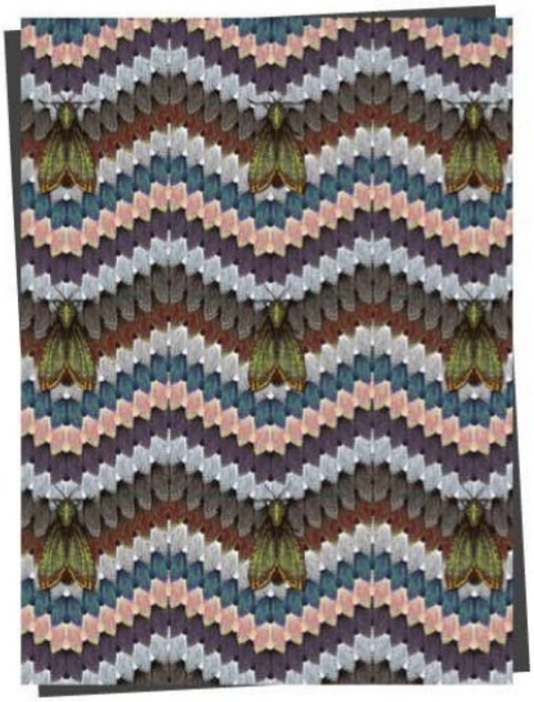
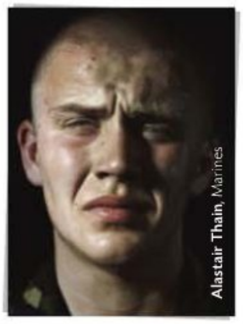
WHAT'S **ON**

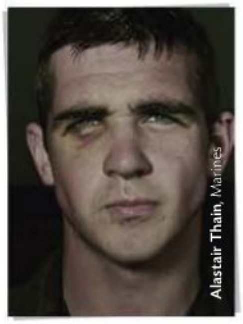
From nostalgic toys to photographs inspired by Wuthering Heights, if you're after a little culture, the North is the place to be. Here are a few of *CFL*'s favourite exhibitions this autumn.

Sam Taylor-Wood, Ghosts X, 2008





Alastair Thain, Marines



Alastair Thain, Marines

Alastair Thain, Marines

GHOSTS

Brontë Parsonage Museum, West Yorkshire
Tel. 01535 642 323
www.bronte.org.uk
Admission: Adults £6, children £3, concessions £4.50
Open daily 10am to 5.30pm
Until 2 November 2009

Ghosts is an exhibition of 11 landscape photographs by Sam Taylor-Wood, shot on the moors around Haworth, the setting for Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights. The photos pose a bleak and unremitting landscape, reflecting the brutal passion and suffering found in the famous novel.

The exhibition is part of an innovative series drawing parallels between the work of contemporary artists and the literary output of the Brontë sisters.

Taylor-Wood shot to prominence in the 1990s as one the YBAs (Young British Artists), together with Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin, and is a veteran of the Venice Biennale and a Turner Prize nominee. In 2004 she famously exhibited a film of David Beckham asleep at the National Portrait Gallery, which is now in its permanent collection.

MARINES
PORTRAITS BY ALASTAIR THAIN

Imperial War Museum North, Manchester
Tel. 0161 836 4000
www.north.iwm.org.uk
Admission: Free
Open 1 March - 2 November 10am to 6pm
Open 3 November - 28 February 10am to 5pm
Until 18 October 2009

Six photographic portraits of young marines are currently on display at the Imperial War Museum North, against a backdrop of the building's dramatic architecture. Alastair Thain's photographs show the marines in some distress following a tough training run. "The pictures are simple objective human portraits that are intended to function as meditative works," says Thain. "My aim was to make the viewer think about the nature of conflict, mortality, and the preciousness of these young lives."

In these photographs we become partners in an imaginary dialogue with people whom we do not know but who are presented in a way in which they are suddenly very close to us.

This display marks the first in the *Reactions* series at Imperial War Museum North, which seeks to unlock the creative potential of the museum collection through working with artists to create displays, installations and new commissions.

TIMOROUS BEASTIES PRESENTS A BIRD IN HAND

Millennium Gallery, Sheffield
Tel. 0114 278 2600
www.museums-sheffield.org.uk
Admission: Free
Open Mon to Sat 8am to 5pm (exhibitions from 10am)
Sunday 11am to 5pm
Until 25 October 2009

Timorous Beasties, one of the most exciting design studios currently working in the UK, present *A Bird In Hand*; an exhibition inspired by Museums Sheffield's John Ruskin collection of art and artefacts. The designers have embraced and subverted the traditional Victorian aesthetics of the 19th century to surreal and provocative effect.

Illustrations and ornithological specimens from the Ruskin collection form the basis of a range of new fabrics, adorning everything from lampshades to furniture to create a Victorian parlour for the 21st century.

ABOVE CENTRE Timorous Beasties, Woodpecker and Bug Chair Panel, 2009
ABOVE RIGHT Timorous Beasties, Zag-Wing, 2009

Froglets © 2009 Oliver Postgate & Peter Firmin

© P&Co Ltd FF Ltd 2009

George Rodger, An East End family in shelter during raid 1940, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre

© Grayson Perry as Claire, 2008

Gerhard Richter, Self Portrait Standing, Three Times, 1991, Painted photographs on paper

Gerhard Richter, Abstraktes Bild (809-3), 1994

Tish Murtha, Untitled, Arts Council Collection, Southbank Centre © the artist 2008

TOY TALES

The Bowes Museum, County Durham
Tel. 01833 690606
www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk
Admission: Adults £7, concessions £6, free for Children under 16
Open daily 10am to 5pm
Until 1 November 2009

For anyone wishing to take a trip down memory lane, the Bowes Museum is the perfect destination. Celebrating 60 years of BBC children's television programmes, the *Toy Tales* exhibition is guaranteed to take you back to those carefree days of childhood. A range of puppets, props and stage sets are on display, from Andy Pandy to Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men.

The exhibition will also pay tribute to the animator, puppeteer and author Oliver Postgate, who died in December 2008. Postgate, together with Peter Firmin, set up the company Smallfilms in a disused cowshed at Firmin's home in Kent, producing animated footage on a shoestring budget to great acclaim. Their successes include Bagpuss, once voted the most popular children's TV programme of all time.

Soup Dragon © 2009 Postgate & Peter Firmin

GERHARD RICHTER
MODERN TIMES

Mima: Middlesborough Institute of Modern Art, Middlesborough
Tel. 01642 726 720
www.visitmima.com
Admission: Free
Open Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat 10am to 5pm, Thurs 10am to 8pm, Sun 12am to 4pm
Until 15 November 2009

Modern Times presents a varied collection of the work of German artist Gerhard Richter, whose career spans almost five decades. The exhibition comprises four themed rooms: Room 1 presents a meditative installation of monochrome and abstract works; Room 2 houses *Two Sculptures for a Room by Palermo*, 1971 – one of the very few sculptures ever made by Richter. Room 3 showcases a number of abstract paintings, but it is Room 4 which houses the most poignant works; a series of 30 rarely-seen drawings, combining both abstract and figurative works and offering a remarkable insight into the artist.

The exhibition is part of *Artist Rooms*, a new national collection of international contemporary art donated jointly to National Galleries of Scotland and Tate by Anthony d'Offay. Throughout 2009, 18 museums and galleries across the UK are showing more than 30 *Artist Rooms* exhibitions, presenting many works previously unseen in public.

UNPOPULAR CULTURE
NOSTALGIA FOR THE BAD TIMES

Longside Gallery, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, near Wakefield
Tel. 01924 832 631
www.ysp.co.uk
Admission: Free. Parking is £4 for the day
Open 10am to 4pm daily
Until 25 October 2009

Turner Prize winner Grayson Perry's *Unpopular Culture* exhibition includes a new programme of films from the British Film Institute (BFI) National Archive entitled *Nostalgia for the Bad Times*. Selected by Perry, the films cover good manners, afternoon tea, seaside holidays and coal fires, and complement the theme of the works in his exhibition, which resists the rose-tinted nostalgia that seeks to hail the past as the 'glory age'.

"With the help of the BFI, I have chosen a selection of short films that highlight different facets of Britishness in the immediate post-war period," says Perry. "They reflect perfectly the world that the paintings, sculpture and photography in *Unpopular Culture* sprang from. To us now, Britain 60 years ago is a strange country where everyone smokes all the time and speaks with a comedy accent, even the working classes have impeccable manners."

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Stuff and Co is a veritable treasure trove for home lovers and boasts some of the best cards and wrapping papers in the city.

1 Heathcoat Street, NG1 3AF. Tel. 0115 988 1780.

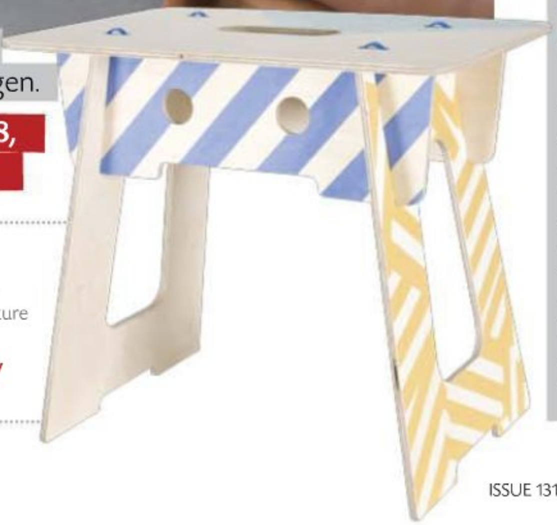
LUNA

Specialising in 1950s, 60s and 70s objects and furniture, Luna is a must-see destination for all retro junkies. One of the North's largest stockists of vintage furniture, you will find everything here from Charles Eames and Verner Panton to Arne Jacobsen and Ercol, as well as vintage textiles, china, lamps and accessories. 139 Lower Parliament Street, NG1 1EE. Tel. 0115 924 3267, visit: www.luna-online.co.uk

Fancy an original design classic?

The Danish Homestore restores and sells furniture by iconic Scandinavian designers, imported from Copenhagen.

88-94 Derby Road, NG1 5FD. Tel. 0115 948 4428, visit: www.danish-homestore.com.



PAUL SMITH

A visit to Nottingham would not be complete without paying homage to this city's most famous son, fashion designer Paul Smith. Look out for those signature stripes on this season's home collection and take the time to admire the interior of this Georgian Grade II* listed building. **Willoughby House, 20 Low Pavement, NG1 7EA. Tel. 0115 968 5990, visit: www.paulsmith.co.uk.**

THE WORM THAT TURNED

Arguably one of Nottingham's best independent gift shops, The Worm That Turned sells a wonderful and thoughtfully selected collection of presents, furniture and decorative items mainly for the garden and gardeners. **120-122 Derby Road, NG1 5FB. Tel. 0115 948 2800/0845 605 250, visit: www.worm.co.uk.**

LE CHIEN ET MOI

Housed in an elegant listed building, this beguiling store offers an ever-changing mix of covetable antique, vintage and recycled pieces for the home and garden, along with new items sourced from across the globe. Allow plenty of time to wander around this inspiring space and remember to say hello to Mulberry the resident 'chien'. **60 Derby Road, NG1 5FD. Tel. 0115 979 9199, visit: www.lechienetmoi.com**

JASS INTERIORS

This is definitely the place to go if you are looking for high quality contemporary furniture and homewares from the world's top designers. Situated in a stunning18th century listed building, the impressive showroom boasts three floors packed with style. Don't forget to check out the inspiring room sets and relax in the café. **24-26 Low Pavement, NG1 7ED. Tel 0115 950 0333, visit: www.jassinteriors.co.uk.**

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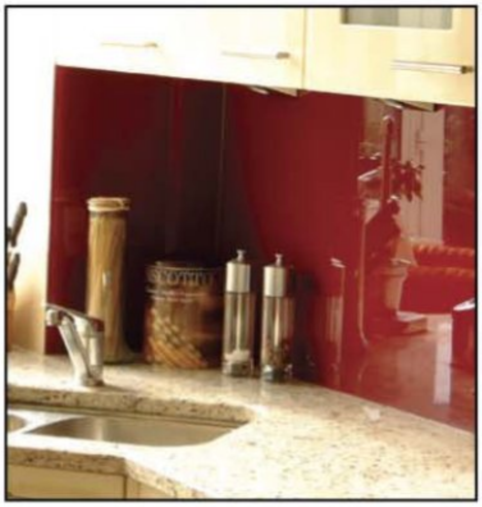
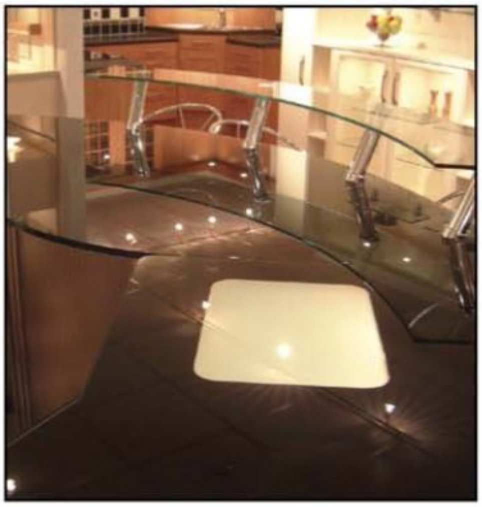


Glass Splashbacks



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SNUGGLE UP

Wrap up warm and bring some character into your home with a stylish mohair throw from Biome Lifestyle. Available in a variety of colours this fair trade blanket has been made by a weaving co-operative in South India. **Tel. 020 7254 7613 or visit: www.biomelifestyle.com today.**

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Shut out those cold winter nights with the new silk fabric range from The Natural Curtain Company. Offering a luxurious alternative to cottons and linens, the range includes five colourways: earl grey, ivory, willow, petal and taupe and are all made from 100% Indian silk. The pictured curtains are priced at £288. **Tel. 0845 5000 400 or visit www.naturalcurtaincompany.co.uk for more information.**

DESIGNER PROFILE

Concept For Living took a trip to Leeds to meet the innovative designers behind contemporary furniture company, Naughtone. Established in 2005 by Yorkshire lads Mark Hammond and Kieron Bakewell, Naughtone was born out of a desire to design.

Having both studied at Leeds University, Mark and Kieron actually met while working in a design company. It was during their time here that they decided to set up Naughtone, thanks to a shared love of design. Always working to an eco-friendly ethos the Naughtone range features classic designs such as the 'Trace' table and 'Pinch' stool. Over the last four years the collection has continually expanded, and the company remains dedicated to using local manufacturing and skilled British designers, resulting in Naughtone's sleek and easily placed designs growing in appreciation. What's more to further prove their eco credentials they are aiming to become carbon neutral within the next three years.

Q&A

What is your most treasured possession?
My wife and my iPhone in order of appearance!

How do you relax?
At Naughtone we benefit from having great sofas at home so that helps. We've all been able to make the best use of our space with the right pieces of upholstery, meaning we get maximum relaxation and space without crowding the room.

Where is your favourite destination?
The French Alps, apart from the natural beauty and sports I find it has retained a lot of culture and tradition.

What is your guilty pleasure?
Television. There are more productive ways to pass the time, but I find it is a good tool for winding the mind down at the end of the day.

Do you have a motto?
No, but to borrow someone else's I do like the motto 'God Is In The Detail'.

Describe yourself in five words?
I am beginning to get the fear of CV writing here!

What inspires you?
Beautiful weather, clients, friends, colleagues and past achievements.

Who are your design heroes?
Jasper Morrison, Hella Jongerious, Shigeru Ban amongst many others.

What are your current projects?
We are developing a range of lighting, which is very exciting. Any lighting for us has had to tie in with Naughtone's style which I think above all is useable, simple and beautiful. We have used simple shapes and pursued perfection through the finishes and overall quality. The range of lighting will consist of two sizes of pendant shades, a floor standing light and a table/desk lamp.

Can you describe your work?
Restrained, useful, quality and beautiful.

What is your favourite piece of work so far?
The 'Portion' range sofa, it has put one or two meals on the table and made a lot of people very happy.

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ABSTRACT INSPIRATION

Artist Chloe Holt is a rising star in the art world, creating expressive paintings inspired by foreign landscapes – and with an exhibition in Parkgate and a space at the Florence Biennale to look forward to, the best is yet to come.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

"Art opens doorways to the unknown, the undiscovered, the almost forgotten and the very beautiful," says Chloe Holt, Chester-based artist and textile designer. Her work explores the banal and the imperfect; from the peeling paint of a door in a sleepy Mediterranean village to a rusty gate covered in eucalyptus leaves.

Coming from a family of graphic designers, Chloe grew up surrounded by creativity but decided to pursue a more hands-on career as an artist. "I like making mistakes and how that can lead to something more interesting – that's why I carried on with traditional processes," she says.

"SOME OF THE MOST INSPIRING ENVIRONMENTS I'VE SEEN HAVE BEEN DURING VISITS TO WALES"

At 28, Chloe already has an enviable list of achievements under her belt. After receiving a first-class honours degree in Printed Textile Design from Manchester Metropolitan University in 2003, Chloe won the Fashion Fabric Prize from the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). Later that same year, she was offered a place at the Royal College of Art, London to do a masters degree in Printed Textiles. This year, one of Chloe's paintings was short-listed for the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition but unfortunately it was too big to fit on the packed walls of the gallery.

From a garden studio in Chester, Chloe paints, designs and makes fabric screenprints. Her abstract paintings are inspired by travel and are layered with symbolism. Chloe recently finished a painting which was influenced by a trip to Tavira, Portugal last winter. "It's quite bleak there. Portugal's a summer place and it's really odd to go out of season." The painting is also inspired by Buddhism, and is based on a Tanka poem. Almost everything in it is symbolic – from the Buddha's face to the eucalyptus leaves. "I'm fascinated by religious symbolism and inspired by the likes of Haiku and Tanka poetry," explains Chloe. "Eucalyptus leaves feature in a lot of my work because they're symbolic for me; the day I got into the RCA, I found a red eucalyptus branch on the street and then found out that it represents healing and protection in

"IT'S QUITE BLEAK THERE – PORTUGAL'S A SUMMER PLACE AND IT'S REALLY ODD TO GO OUT OF SEASON"

Druid symbolism. An omen for that time of success!"

Despite the abstract nature of her work, Chloe finds inspiration in the landscape – whether it's that of her hometown Chester, nearby North Wales or overseas. "Some of the most inspiring environments I've seen have been during visits to Wales," she says. "I love exploring the ever-changing landscapes of Snowdonia as well as Anglesey with its dramatic coastline. I love travelling. For me, holidays are always about inspiration."

Chloe's next holiday isn't far away as she has been invited to take part in the Florence Biennale this December, which showcases the work of artists from all over the world with the historical Italian city as a backdrop. "I was really lucky to be sponsored by Rick Parry, chief executive of Liverpool Football Club, to participate in the Biennale. The exhibition is spread across the whole city, and Christmas time in Florence will be brilliant!"

Preparing for the Biennale as well as an exhibition at the Artroom Gallery, Parkgate this October is taking up all of Chloe's time – but she wouldn't swap it for anything, as she explains: "I'm doing what I absolutely love and making a living from it, and that's what life is all about." ■

You can see more of Chloe's work at the Artroom Gallery in Parkgate, Wirral, in the Rising Stars exhibition which runs from 16 October to 22 November 2009. Visit: www.artroom.nepc.co.uk to find out more.

If you're planning a trip to Florence this winter, be sure to visit Chloe's stand at the Biennale Internazionale dell'Arte Contemporanea, from 5 to 13 December in Fortezza da Basso.

To buy or commission a painting or bespoke printed cushion, visit Chloe's website: www.chloeholt.co.uk or call Chloe on 07980 447701.

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VIEW

113 PROPERTY NEWS
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For this month's Property News we reveal award-winning homes in Bolton, a developer planning to build 'mini-mansions' and lakeside apartments in France.

ROTHERHAM HOMES A HIT

Jones Homes has unveiled its 'property of the month' at a South Yorkshire development.

The successful Kensington Grange development in Bramley, Rotherham, features family homes with views of the rolling Yorkshire countryside. The Winchester, a four-bedroom, three-storey property with more than 140sq m of living space, has been named the favourite property of the month by the developer, Jones Homes (Northern) Ltd.

"We have selected this particular property because it is a remarkably spacious home that has been carefully designed to meet the needs of modern family life," says sales and marketing director, Jayne Swift. "It is priced to reflect the current market, and at more than 140sq m in size with four bedrooms, two with en suite facilities, a host of reception rooms and integral garage, it is exceptional value for money. Surrounded by breathtaking countryside and situated in a superb location on the development, The Winchester is perfect for families and anyone who enjoys the great outdoors."

The Winchester, along with other town houses on the development, is £220,000. For further information visit: www.jones-homes.co.uk.

LAKE ANNECY APARTMENTS

The completion of a new development of apartments in the French Alps has prompted the developer to start another scheme nearby.

French developer MGM recently completed La Villa d'Artagnan, a collection of 18 homes ranging from one-bedroom apartments to a four-bedroom duplex. Every apartment has underfloor heating and an underground garage and cellar storage space.

"The properties are expected to appeal to UK buyers seeking second homes as well as investments," says Richard Deans, sales consultant in MGM's London-based UK sales office. He predicts that, for investors, monthly rental income from a two-bedroom apartment will be in the region of €1,400 to €1,500 during both the ski season and summer months.

MGM decided to bring forward the start of construction work at La Villa d'Artagnan following the success of its earlier scheme nearby, Villa Marine. All but three of the 24 contemporary apartments in the three buildings which comprise this development were sold off-plan. The prices of the remaining apartments start at €389,000 for a two-bedroom property.

Annecy is 30 minutes from Geneva Airport following the opening of a new motorway link. Chambery Airport is 35 minutes away by road. By rail, Annecy is around three hours by TGV from Paris and its Eurostar rail link with London St Pancras.

Apartments at La Villa d'Artagnan start at €338,000. For more details of the properties available call 0207 4940706, email rd@mgm-immobilier.fr or visit: www.mgm-constructeur.com.

DOWNSIZING FOR MILLIONAIRES

A Northwest property developer is diversifying its service by building mini mansions.

When the managing director of Hunstmere, Chris Oakes, says that his new property venture is 'downsizing', it's not quite as most of us would understand it. His idea of a downsize is re-creating all the features (including leisure suite, swimming pool, wine cellar) and quality (handmade plasterwork coving, Bisazza Italian glass mosaic tiles, top-of-the-range kitchen) that he puts into one of his property company's 745sq m mega mansions, into a home around half the size.

With this venture in mind, Huntsmere recently obtained planning permission for a 418sq m 'mini mansion' on Squirrel's Jump in Alderley Edge. The property will provide a blueprint for Chris's new downsizing enterprise.

"We have now developed a number of large, speculative properties packed with all the luxury features you would expect to find in a house with a £3 to £4 million price tag," says Chris. "But it occurred to me that there would be buyers out there, whether successful business people or footballers for example, who wanted all the luxury features of our properties, but who didn't need 6 bedrooms and 5 reception rooms. I suppose I've modelled this latest property in Alderley on a footballer's lifestyle on the basis that I like to have someone in mind when designing a new project."

The Lodge, as the Squirrel's Jump property is called, will be built on three floors. The property's leisure suite will occupy the lower ground floor and will include an 8m swimming pool with pool-side lounge and bar plus changing rooms. A gym overlooks the pool and a wine cellar will also be located on this floor.

The hub of this property will be the huge kitchen/family room which, at 9.75m x 4.27m, is anything but mini. The formal sitting room has a large terrace which will command stunning views from the property's elevated position and there is also a large dining room.

Such is Chris's confidence in the property market in this area that he is currently buying land for more homes and three further plots have already been identified for his new mini mansions.

The Lodge is for sale priced at £2.25 million. For more information visit: www.huntsmere.co.uk or call Chris Oakes on 01625 599 929.

<< AWARD FOR BOLTON HOMES

Developer Arley Homes has received an NHBC quality award for its collection of homes in Harwood, Lancashire.

Churchfields is an exclusive development of 17 family homes ideally situated on the edge of the Lancashire countryside. Site manager Bill Wilson has been given the Pride in Job Award in recognition of the excellent quality of the properties.

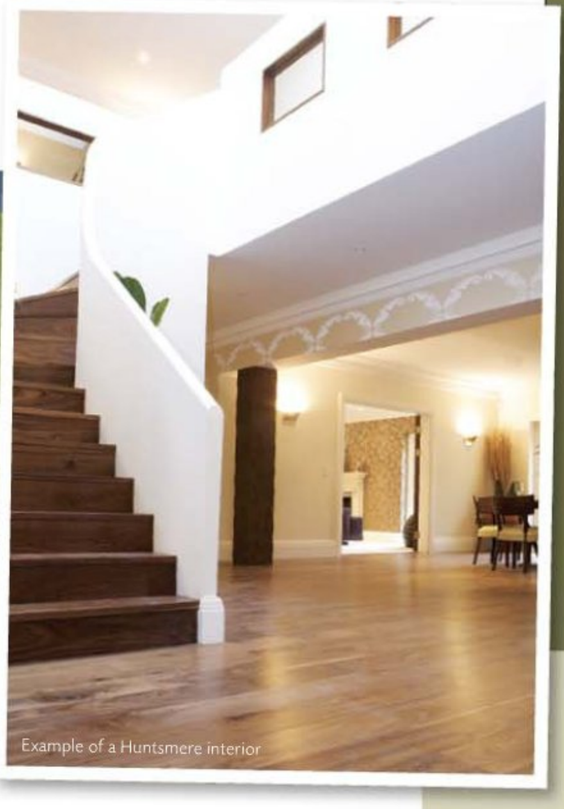
"I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of the whole team here at Arley Homes, all of whom have such commitment to building beautiful family homes," says Bill. "We take great pride in our work and get huge satisfaction from seeing the delight of the people who buy our properties, so it's fantastic to also be recognised by our industry in this way."

To qualify for a Pride in the Job award, each site manager undergoes spot checks on the day-to-day running of the site, as well as an individual assessment across 38 areas of site management, including their technical knowledge, consistency in the build process and the quality controls they have in place.

Imtiaz Farookhi, NHBC chief executive, says: "For almost 30 years NHBC's Pride in the Job competition has rewarded those site managers who, like Bill, produce the best new homes which are built and finished to the highest possible standard. Despite the additional challenges the downturn has created on site, we are delighted that maintaining high standards of workmanship and customer service has remained a high priority for winning site managers."

More than 13,000 site managers across the country are entered into the Pride in the Job awards and only 400 are given a Quality Award, due to be presented at a gala dinner this month.

Prices at Churchfields start from £199,950. For more information about the development call 01925 651155 or visit: www.arleyhomes.co.uk.



Example of a Huntsmere interior

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We've sought out the best new homes West Yorkshire has to offer – from apartments in Leeds to family homes in Halifax.

PERFECT HOLIDAY HOMES

Houses near the Yorkshire Dales present a great investment buy.

A selection of three- and four-bedroom homes in Cononley have recently been completed by Antler Homes, and provide the ideal opportunity for those seeking a holiday home in the UK.

Riverdale Ings is located in the centre of the village, on the banks of the River Aire. It offers a unique opportunity to buy a traditional country home in a lovely location with breathtaking views of the Aire Valley and Yorkshire Dales. The properties have been built using local stone and feature stylish interiors, luxurious bathrooms and modern kitchens.

Situated in the heart of Yorkshire, the village of Cononley is close to the Yorkshire Dales, the North Pennines and the Lake District, making it a perfect base for exploring the rural countryside.

If you're after a less energetic break, the bustling town of Skipton is just over four miles away and offers a medieval castle as well as a highly regarded market. Keighley, another town within close proximity, offers the Brontë Parsonage Museum and the Keighley and Worth Valley Light Railway.

The Yorkshire Dales are beautiful throughout the year, meaning the homes have rental potential for 12 months a year. Properties at Riverdale Ings start at £220,000. Visit: www.antlerhomes.co.uk or call 01535 637 826 for more information.

MODERN HOMES NEAR LEEDS

Family homes close to Leeds offer spacious accommodation and style.

Shepherd Homes is a family owned house builder with more than 100 years' experience. Its latest development, Langdale Park, is a collection of three-, four- and five-bedroom terraced, semi-detached and detached family homes in Woodlesford near Leeds. The largest house type comprises living accommodation spread across three floors.

A dining room, study, fully-fitted kitchen and breakfast area and spacious living room with double doors to the rear garden make up the ground floor. The master suite, two further bedrooms (one with en-suite) and a family bathroom are located on the first floor, and the second floor comprises another two bedrooms.

The village of Woodlesford has many local amenities including a primary school and medical centre, whilst nearby there is the 18-hole Oulton Park Golf Club and a sports centre. Situated to the south east of Leeds, Langdale Park is close to major road networks and Woodlesford railway station and bus routes provide easy access to the city of Leeds.

Prices at Langdale Park range from £174,995 for a three-bedroom house to £369,995 for a five-bedroom property. Visit: www.shepherdhomes.com or call 0845 4707 123 for further information.

CITY CENTRE APARTMENTS

New apartments in Leeds feature contemporary styles and rooftop gardens.

Granary Wharf is one of the newest developments in Leeds and comprises 30 adaptable apartment types. The two residential blocks offer studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments as well as a number of larger three-bedroom units with individual roof terraces. Beside the buildings are public areas where people can enjoy natural canal-side landscapes and a fully restored and working graving (dry) dock.

The first block, Waterman's Place, was launched in September and is a 'stepped' 14-storey building designed by architects CZWG, housing 122 apartments, some of which have private rooftop gardens. The building is named after James Abbot Waterman, an 18th Century barge builder who, for a period, had his business and domestic premises located on the wharf.

The second block, Candle House, is a 23-storey cylindrical building designed by Careyjones architects due to launch at the end of 2009 and features a communal rooftop terrace and 160 apartments. Its name refers to the candle and tallow packing warehouses once located on the wharf side.

Prices range from £134,500 for a one-bedroom apartment to £366,000 for an apartment with three bedrooms and a roof terrace. Visit www.granarywharf.co.uk or call 0845 071 1060 for more information.

DESIGN YOUR OWN HOME

A Leeds-based developer is inviting property hunters to get involved in the design of their dream home.

In the current challenging market, house builders are becoming increasingly flexible in the choices and services they offer. The new incentive from Persimmon Homes West Yorkshire is enabling buyers to make cosmetic changes to the layout of their property. For example, if buyers prefer open-plan living, they can choose to move doors to open up a particular room. Similarly power points, which can sometimes restrict the use of a particular room, can be relocated. Alternatively, Persimmon will supply house hunters with a choice of design options.

"All too often we hear stories of the amount of DIY required in second-hand homes because the house they have bought just isn't quite right for their needs," says Lawrence McGeehan, sales director of Persimmon Homes West Yorkshire. "Inviting buyers to get involved with the design during the early stages of build means we are giving them a choice of what they really need as opposed to telling them what they should have. Recognising that buyers have very different needs and being able to respond is crucial in this market and offering this opportunity will certainly set us apart from other developers."

Village Muse, a development in which the scheme is being pioneered, comprises 19 three- and four-bedroom homes in Southowram, Halifax. All the properties are brand new stone-built designs, named after quintessential Yorkshire villages, which blend in with the existing neighbourhood.

Halifax is steeped in history, boasts some of the best architecture in West Yorkshire and is set against a backdrop of picturesque countryside.

Homes at Village Mews are currently priced from £154,999. Visit: www.persimmonhomes.com or call 01422 384 560 to find out more.

Photography Eleri Griffiths

AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW: INDUSTRIAL REVIVAL

This month Kevin Drayton takes a trip to Tyneside to marvel at the regeneration of Gateshead Quays, which has thrown off its working roots to become a vibrant cultural quarter where fantastic architectural buildings, both old and new, sit alongside the world's first and only tilting bridge.

I am very aware when writing these articles, that some readers will already know the buildings and locations I'm talking about well, whilst for others they will be completely unknown. What is more, readers who are familiar with a particular building or area on a day-to-day basis will almost certainly feel differently about it from someone who may visit it only once or twice. For some reason I feel particularly conscious of this in discussing this month's location: Gateshead Quays.

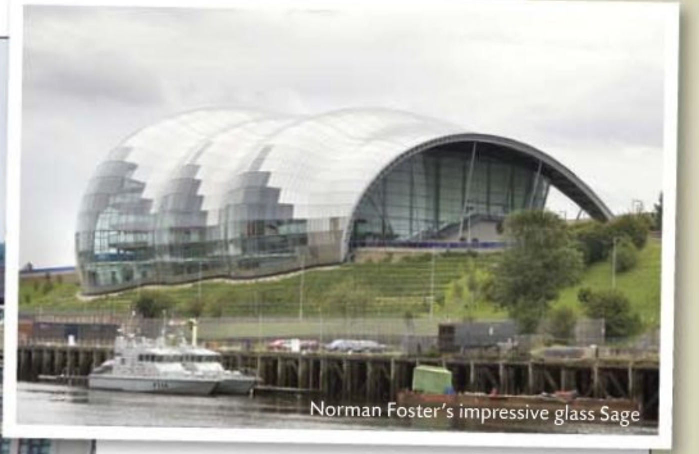
Walking round this area is like taking a crash course on late 20th and early 21st century urban design. It deals with regeneration of a former industrial area; new uses for iconic old buildings; fine architectural heritage integrated with some good new buildings and an example of how arts and leisure can be used to bring new life to a moribund urban quarter.

It was the late, great Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, who created the character Slartibartfast, a Magrathean, we are told, who designed planets. Apparently his favourite part of the job was doing coastlines. If I were a Magrathean planet designer, I would site every town and city on a river. A stretch of water does so much for a city. This is certainly true for Gateshead and Newcastle, which face each other across the Tyne.

There is far more here than can be explored and enjoyed in just one day, but even if that's all the time you have, may I suggest you arrive at either Newcastle bus or railway station and head down to the river. You can't really go wrong: the slopes and layout of the streets will guide you automatically and the streetscape is impressive. As you arrive at the water's edge, you will see across the Tyne two buildings that, on their own, make the trip worthwhile: to the left, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, and to the right, the jelly-like curves of the Sage Gateshead, the regional centre for music.

The Sage, which opened at the end of 2004, was designed by Lord Norman Foster's architectural practice. That fact alone would make the building worth a visit. The practice has, quite justifiably, a stellar reputation and the Sage was the first performing arts building the practice had produced. Given Foster's rigorous approach to research and design, together with his meticulous attention to detail, you are guaranteed an experience to remember.

Because sounds are so important to the building, it is designed as a series of individual (and hence acoustically isolated) pavilions, enclosed in a curved, glazed shell that unifies the complex. Norman Foster doesn't do self-effacing. He's good and he


Norman Foster's impressive glass Sage

The Baltic Mill, home of contemporary art

"Designed as two sweeping curves, a deck and a supporting arch, these 'eyelids' slowly pivot or blink periodically to enable shipping to pass below"

doesn't see why he shouldn't flaunt the fact.

As if the Sage were not enough just metres away is the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art. Created from the 1950's Baltic Flour Mills building and opened in 2002, this is both a counterpoint and a contrast to the Sage. Like the Sage it was built as a home for the arts, but the difference in approach to the architecture is almost total. The original building was designed back in 1939 by Hull practice Gelder and Kitchen, although it did not open until 1950. Rank Hovis used it as a model for other mills around the country. The Baltic closed in 1981 and, following an international design competition in 1994, Ellis Williams Architects won the right to transform it into this contemporary art silo.

Art galleries are only as good as their exhibitions. The Baltic doesn't have a permanent collection, which means you never know what you might find. One of my most powerful experiences came whilst visiting an installation by the Spanish artist Jaume Plensa. Down the length of one gallery, two lines of huge gongs and mallets were suspended from the ceiling. Unlike in many galleries, visitors were actually encouraged to get involved by hitting the gongs with the mallets. Cue young and old alike gleefully belting merry heck out of the 'art'. I stood to one side, closed my eyes and was transported by the sound and vibration. I regret to say that no one thought to record the amazing soundtrack.

After that I needed a drink and if you head to the café in the Baltic you can sit and contemplate what is for me the real highlight of a trip to Gateshead Quays. If a river can make a city, it is partly because a river means bridges. Arguments as to whether or not bridges are architecture have raged for centuries. What is certain is that they fascinate architects.

The Tyne boasts as good a selection of bridges as anywhere in Britain, and looking out from the Baltic café you have an unrivalled view of several, including the High Level Bridge, the Swing Bridge and the Tyne Bridge. But best of all – and closest of all – is the astonishing Millenium footbridge. I can hardly begin to tell you how wonderful this structure is. Appropriately for its setting, it is a work of art. But a work of art over which you can walk to visit other works of art; a sculpture on which to sit and take in the view down the Tyne of earlier bridge designs; a paean to elegance and engineering.

Just when I thought there was no way this could be improved, the most amazing thing happened: the great structure began to move. Designed as two sweeping curves, a deck and a supporting arch, these 'eyelids' slowly pivot or blink periodically to enable shipping to pass below. Dance and theatre is thus married with static art to produce one of the great free urban experiences of the North of England.

All too much? Perhaps, but when I thought I had seen it all, I returned after nightfall and was stunned by the sight of the bridge dressed in lights, soaring between the banks of the river, surrounded by a real 21st century city. Believe me, it is well worth a visit.

Kevin is partner at One17 Design. Visit: www.one17design.com to find out more about his work.

If you are interested in visiting Gateshead Quays the closest railway station is Newcastle Central or you can travel by metro to Gateshead Interchange, visit: www.gateshead-quays.com for further information.

To find out more about the millennium bridge, including tilt times (usually 12 noon) visit www.gateshead.gov.uk. The Baltic is open daily 10.00-18.00 except Tuesdays (10.30-18.00) and admission is free, visit: www.balticmill.com or tel. 0191 478 1810. The Sage is open daily from 9.00-21.00 in winter, later in summer depending on performances, visit www.thesagegateshead.org or tel. 0191 443 4666.

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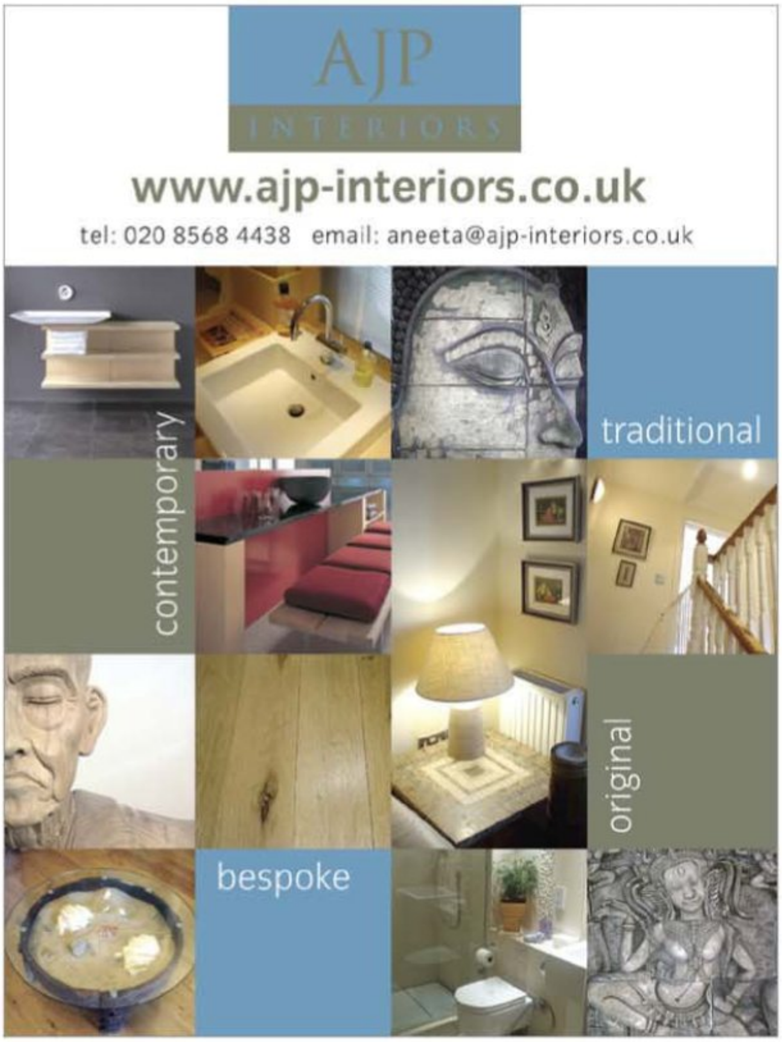
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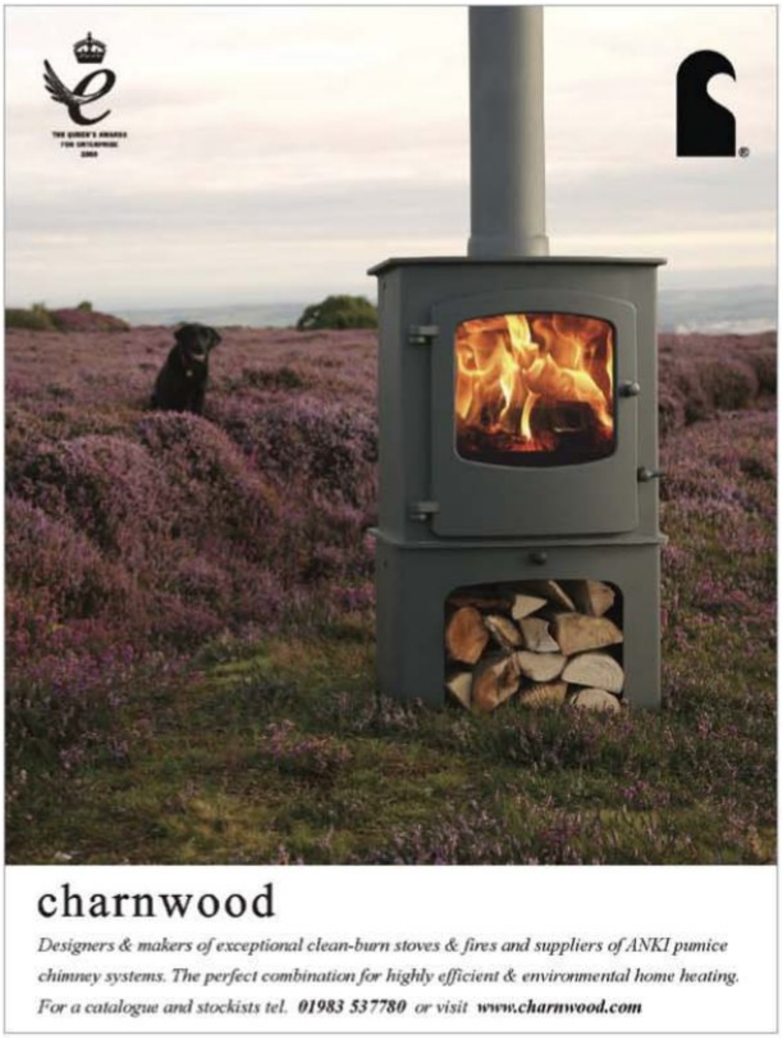
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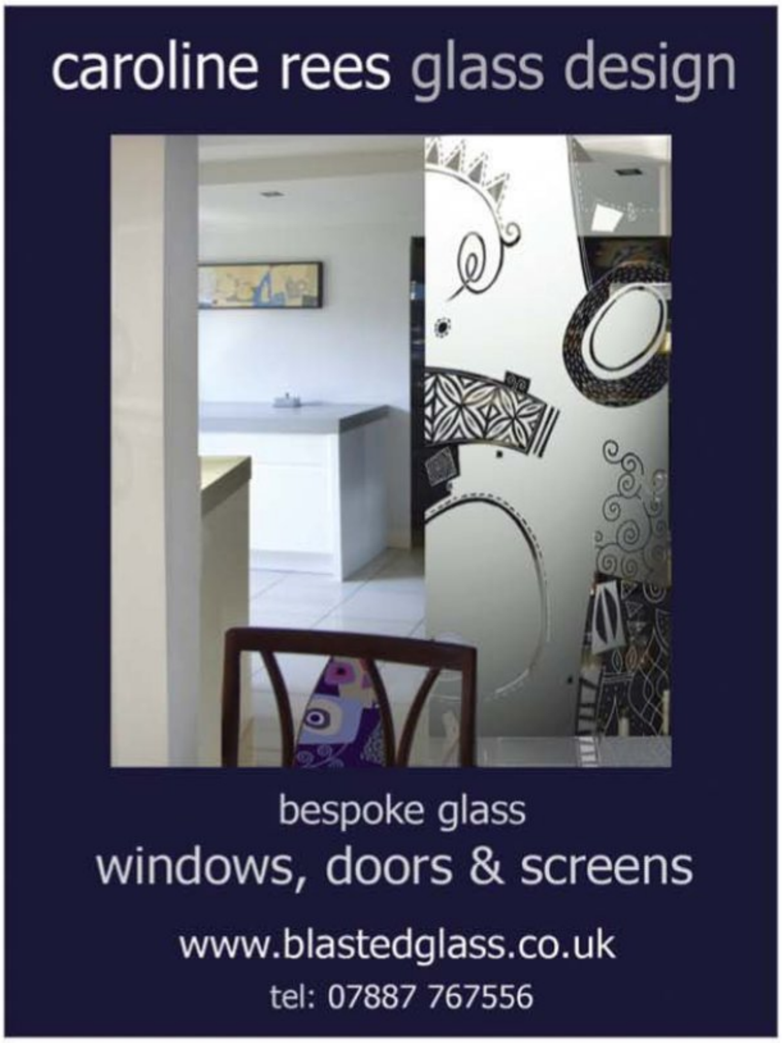
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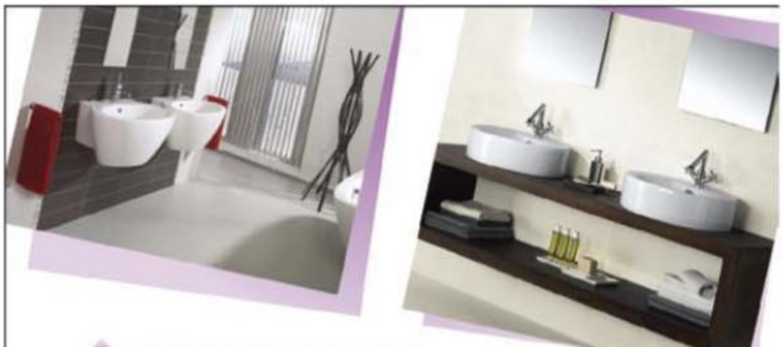

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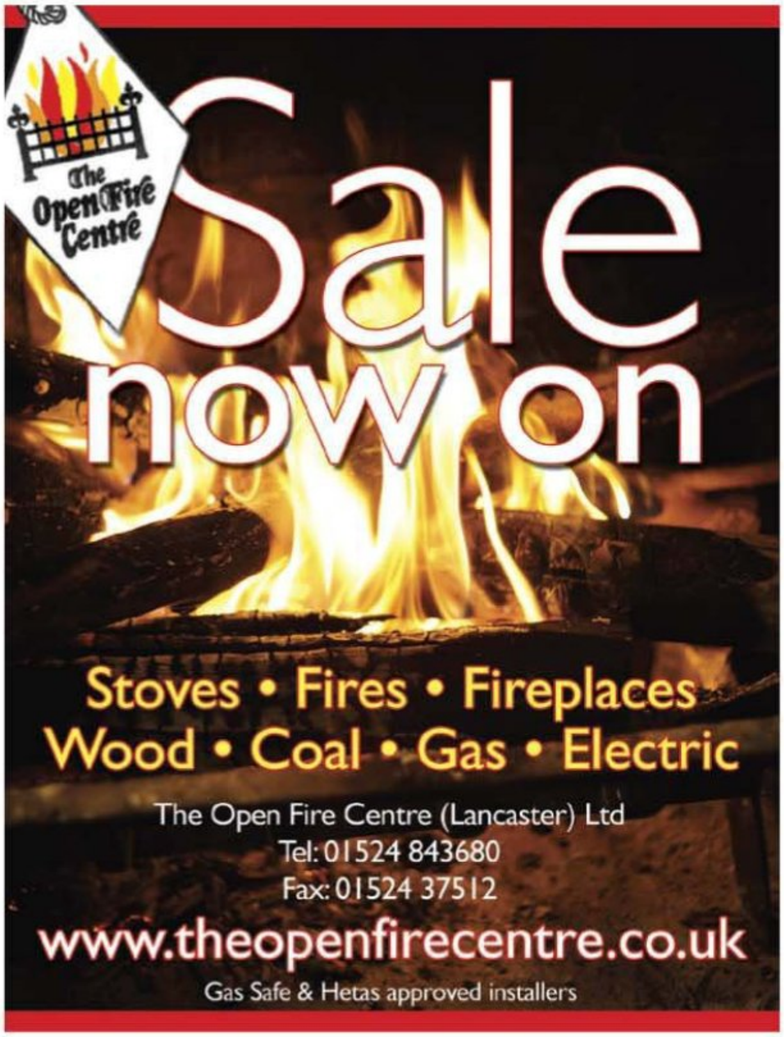
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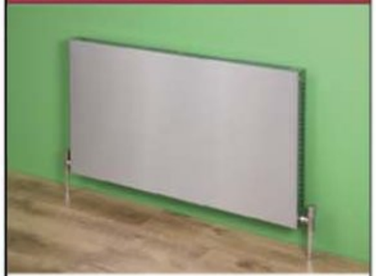

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Aspace 0845 872 2400 www.aspace.co.uk
Aura 0161 275 9966 www.aurahome.com.au
Auro 01452 772020 www.auro.co.uk

B

B&Q www.diy.com
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Bang & Olufsen (Nantwich) 01270 626 235 www.bang-olufsen.com/beostores/nantwich
Barker and Stonehouse 08444 204 220 www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk
BAS 01928 579 957 www.b-a-s.co.uk
Bay Tree Conservatories 01244 880 770 www.baytreeconservatories.co.uk
Beckers 020 7736 9876 www.beckerspaints.co.uk
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Biofires www.biofires.com
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Bobo Kids 020 7838 1020 www.bobokids.net
BoConcept www.boconcept.com
Bonaldo www.boanldo.it
Brume 01364 73951 for brochure www.brume.co.uk
Burford 01993 823 117 www.burford.co.uk
Burning Desires 01772 716 375 www.burningdesires.co.uk

C

Cath Kidston 0151 709 2747 www.cathkidston.com
C. P. Hart www.cphart.co.uk
Carl Mark Furniture 01704 213 355 www.cm-furniture.co.uk
Caroline McGrath 01869 340479 www.carolinemcgrath.co.uk
Caroline Rees Glass Design 01792 369 652 www.blastedglass.co.uk
Charnwood www.charnwood.com
Chattels Designer Furniture 01244 322 280 www.chattels-designerfurniture.co.uk
Cheadle Glass 0161 480 6644 www.cheadleglass.com
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Cole & Son www.cole-and-son.com
Corian® 0800 962 116 www.corian.co.uk
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Cox & Cox 0870 442 4787 www.coxandcox.co.uk
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Crown Paint www.crownpaint.co.uk
Curve Interior Design 0161 237 9300 www.curveinteriordesign.co.uk

D

David Mellor Design 01433 650 220 www.davidmellordesign.com
David Village Lighting 0114 2634266 www.light-attack.co.uk
De Dietrich www.dedietrich.co.uk
Designers Guild www.designersguild.com
Diane Berry 0161 798 5335 www.dianeberrykitchens.co.uk
Digitex 0161 873 8891 www.digitex.com
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Dulux www.dulux.co.uk
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Dwell 0845 675 9090 www.dwell.co.uk

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Foscarini 0800 3762518 www.foscarini.com
Funky Kids Furniture 01531 650974 www.funkykidsfurniture.co.uk

G-K

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GH Frith 01745 589 060 www.ghfrith.com
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L

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Lux Interiors 01625 439 200 www.luxinteriors.co.uk

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Novatec 01843 608 780 www.novatec.co.uk

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Outer Eden 0116 270 8100 www.outer-eden.co.uk
Panorama Kitchens 0151 260 7749 www.panoramakitchens.co.uk
Paul Smith 0115 968 5990 www.paulsmith.co.uk
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Portmeirion 01782 743 456 www.portmeirion.co.uk
Pure Design 0113 2186 490 www.puredesignuk.com

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Sanderson www.sanderson-uk.com
Sense Of Space 01943 816 489 www.senseofspace.net
Somod Interiors 01253 814 290 www.somod.co.uk
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Stonewoods 0208 870 0167 www.stonewoods.co.uk
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Swanky Rooms 0121 559 4095 swankyrooms.co.uk

T

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The Contemporary Home 02392 469 400 www.tch.net
The Danish Homestore 0115 948 4428 www.danish-homestore.com
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The Great Little Trading Company 0844 848 6000 www.gltc.co.uk
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The White Company 0845 678 8150 www.thewhitecompany.com
The Worm That Turned 0115 948 2800 worm.co.uk
Time 4 Sleep 01484 500 560 www.time4sleep.co.uk
TMLine www.tmline.dk
Townhouse 01423 701 555 www.townhousedesign.co.uk
Taskers DIY 0151 525 4844 www.taskersgroup.co.uk

U-Z

Ultimate Splashbac 01274 651 621 www.ultimate-splashbac.co.uk
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Utility Design 0151 708 419 www.utilitydesign.co.uk
Utopia 0800 288 8409 www.utopiagroup.com
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Villeroy & Boch 0208 875 6000 www.vivo-vb.com
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Wallpaperdirect www.wallpaperdirect.co.uk
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10 OF THE BEST FOOTSTOOLS

1

2

3

4

GOTHIC

Get the look this autumn with the latest contemporary twist on Gothic. Black is the new buzz word, with many leading designers adding a stunning selection of dramatically dark pieces to their seasonal collections. Check out our pick of the best gothic-inspired interior delights.

For stockist details see page 128

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6

7

1 'Moulin Noir Armoire' wardrobe, £679, Ivory Pearl Interiors. 2 'Hot Kroon' chandelier, £1,595, The French Bedroom Company. 3 Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen cushion, £15, Matalan Home. 4 'Ravello' crystal candelabra, £220, Heal's. 5 'Tamar' screen, £450, Laura Ashley. 6 'Skullduggery' chair, £750, Rockett St George. 7 'Linea' wine glass, £5, House Of Fraser. WALLPAPER Pallade in black, £20 per roll, Graham & Brown.

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